BATMAN

GOTHAM ADVENTURES

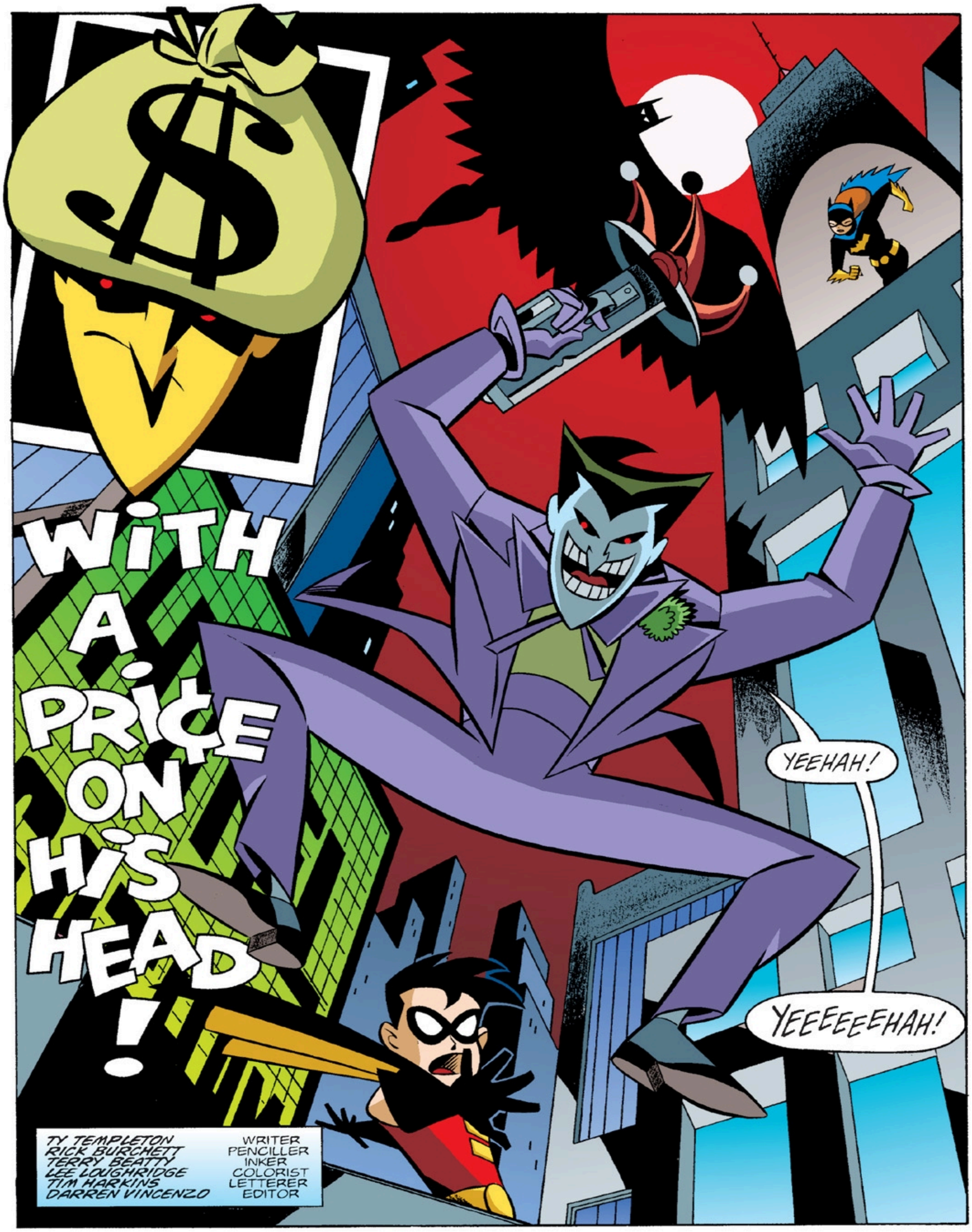
#1

JUN '98

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

TEMPLETON · BURCHETT · BEATTY

[redacted]


WITH A PRICE ON HIS HEAD!
YEEHAH!
YEEEEEEEHAH!

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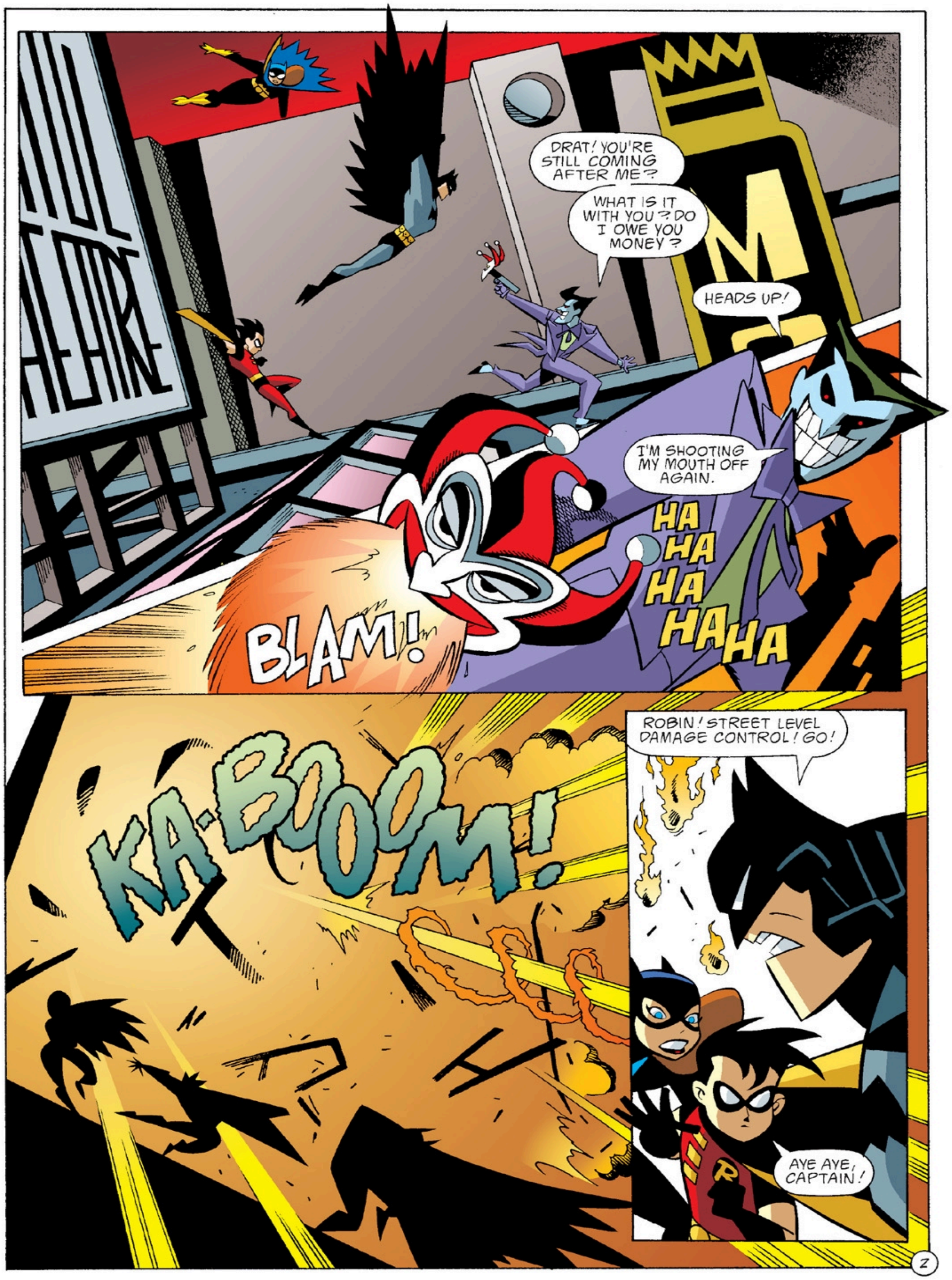
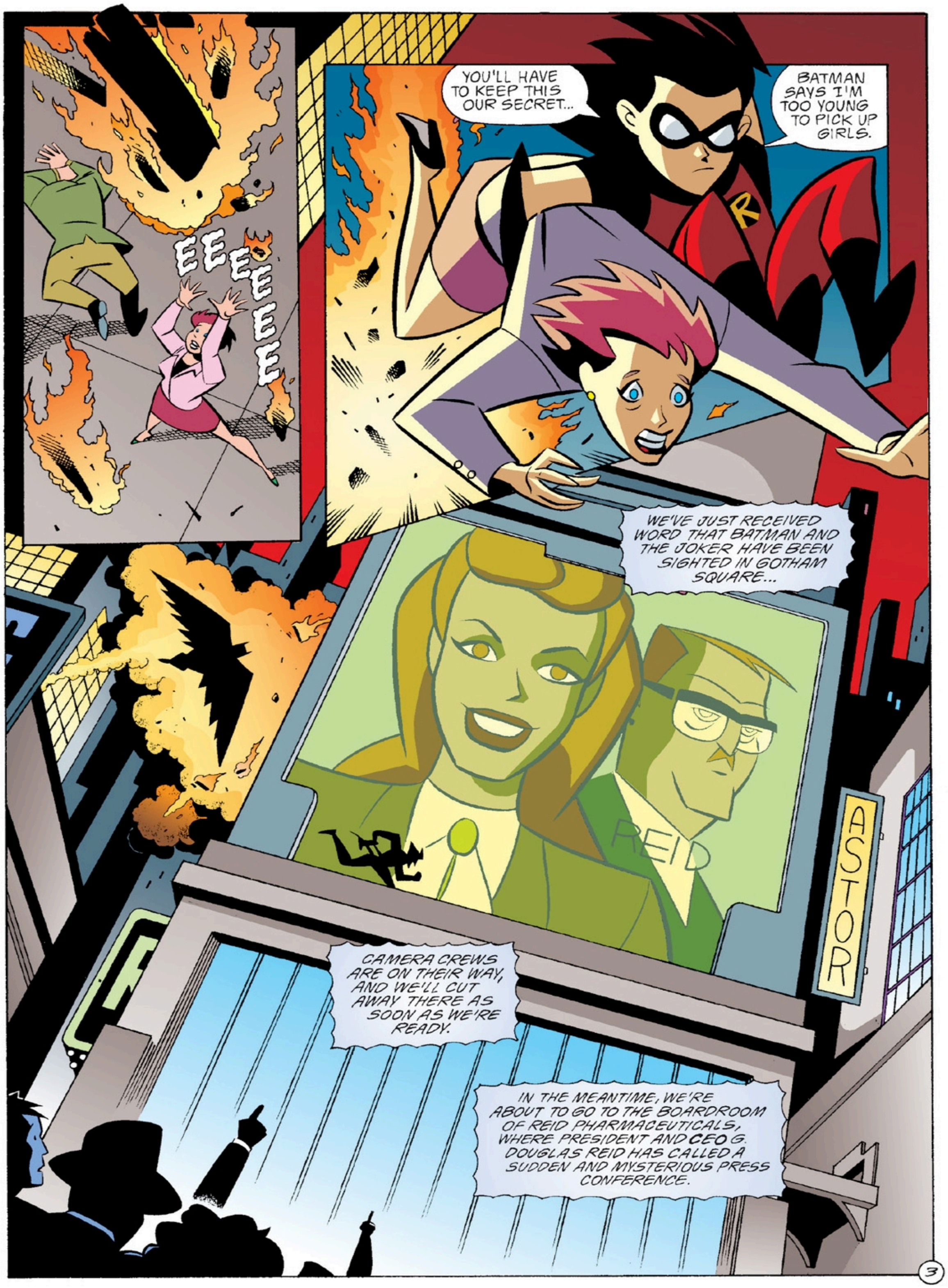
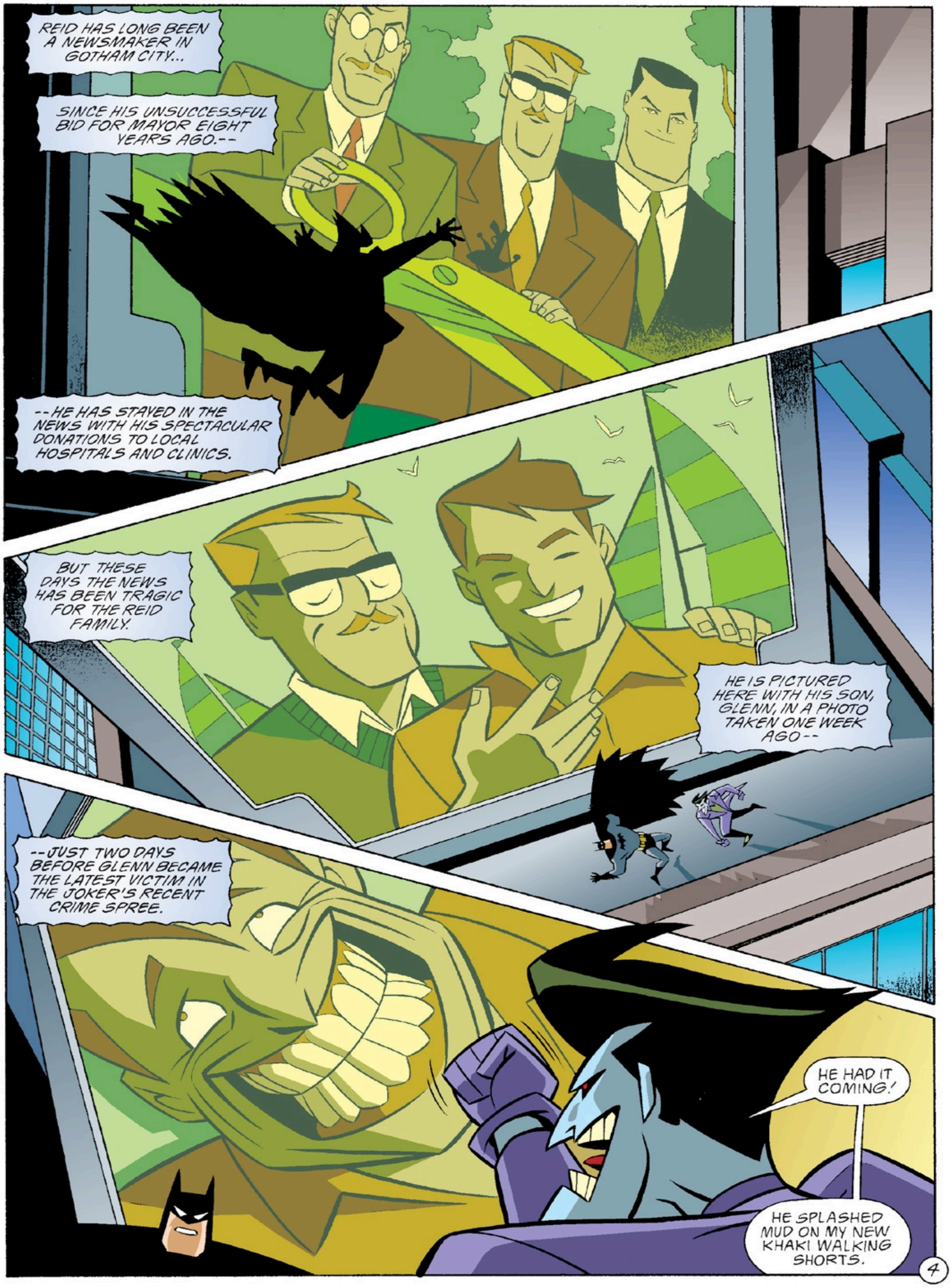
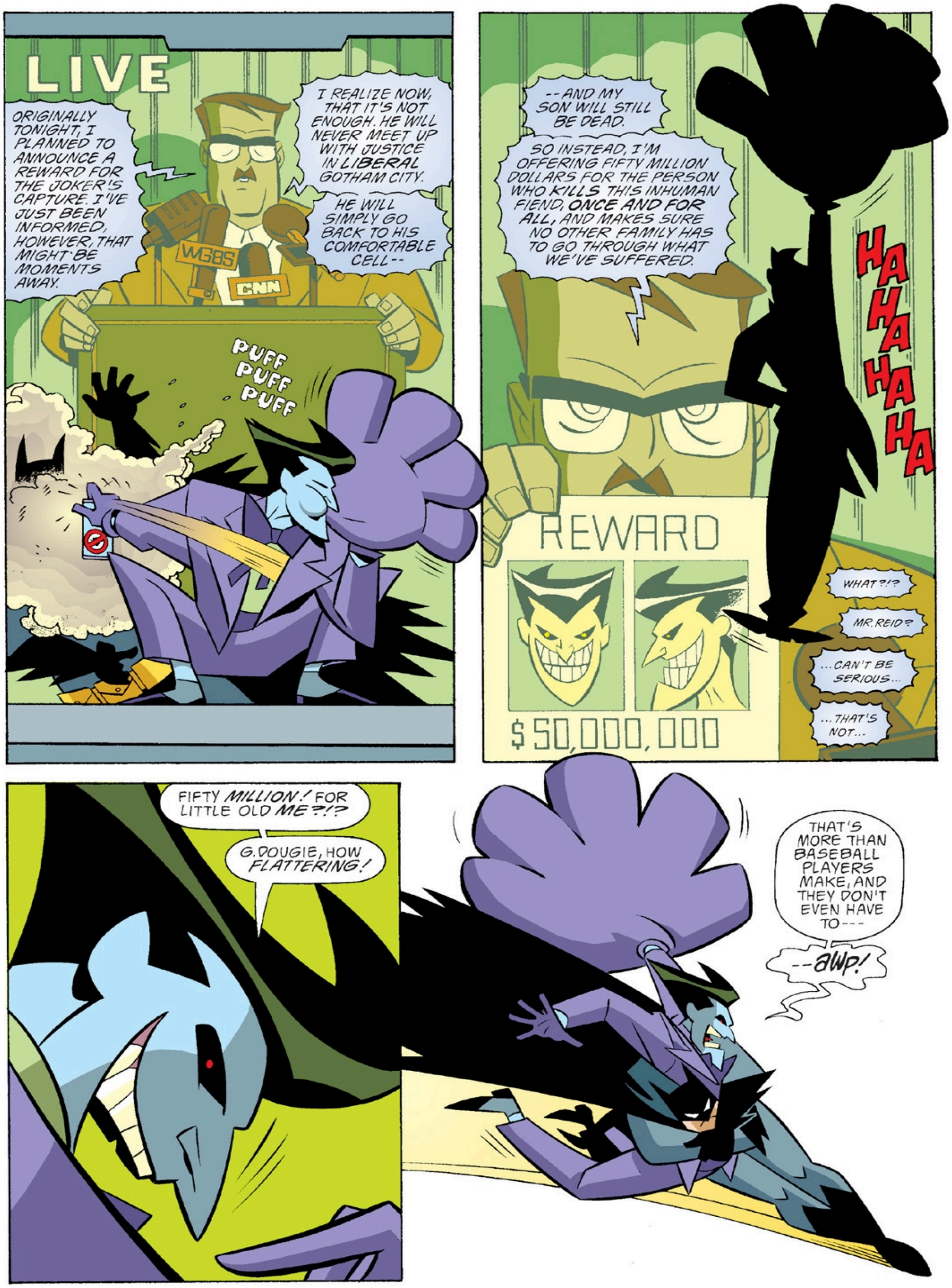
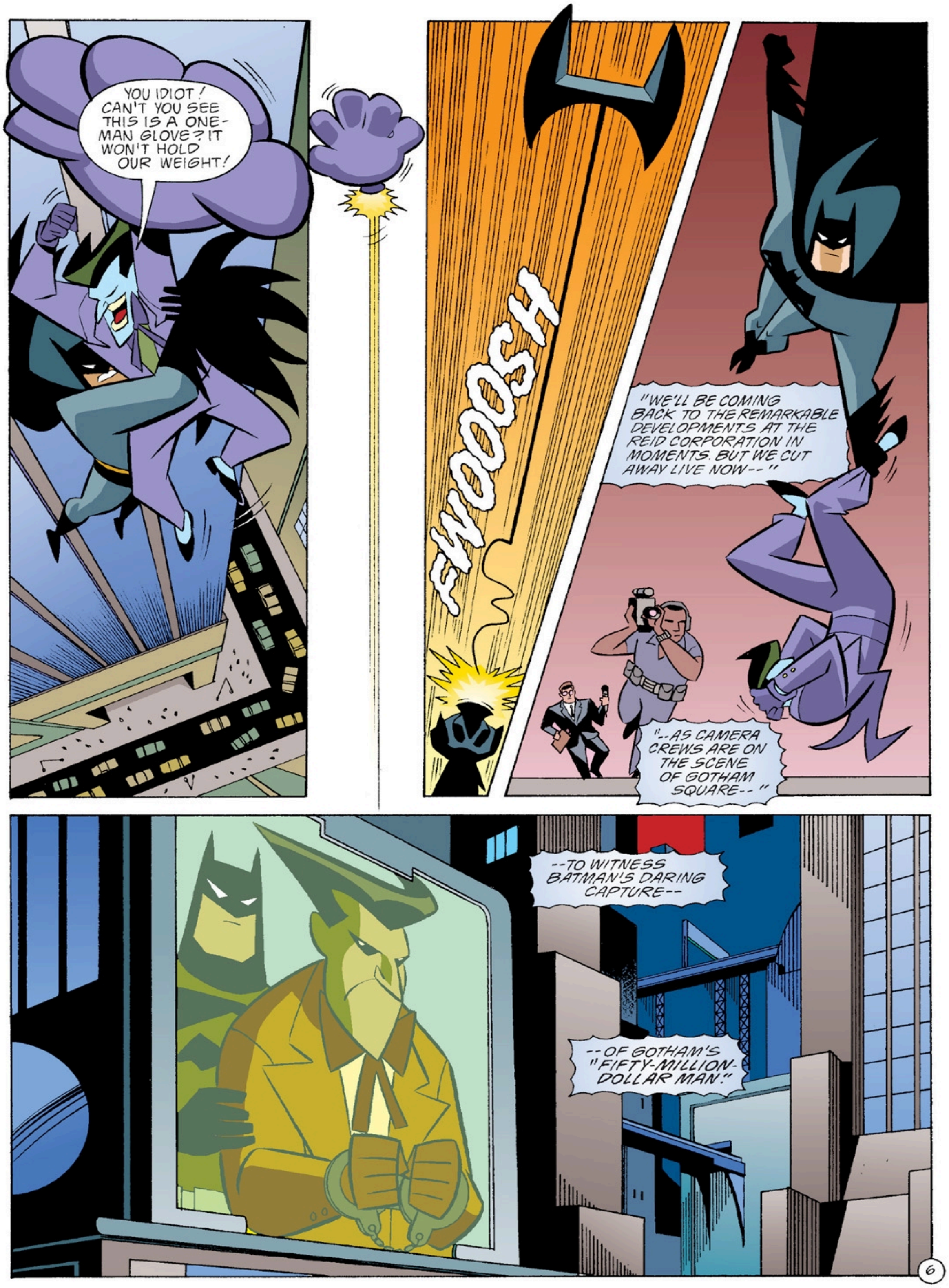
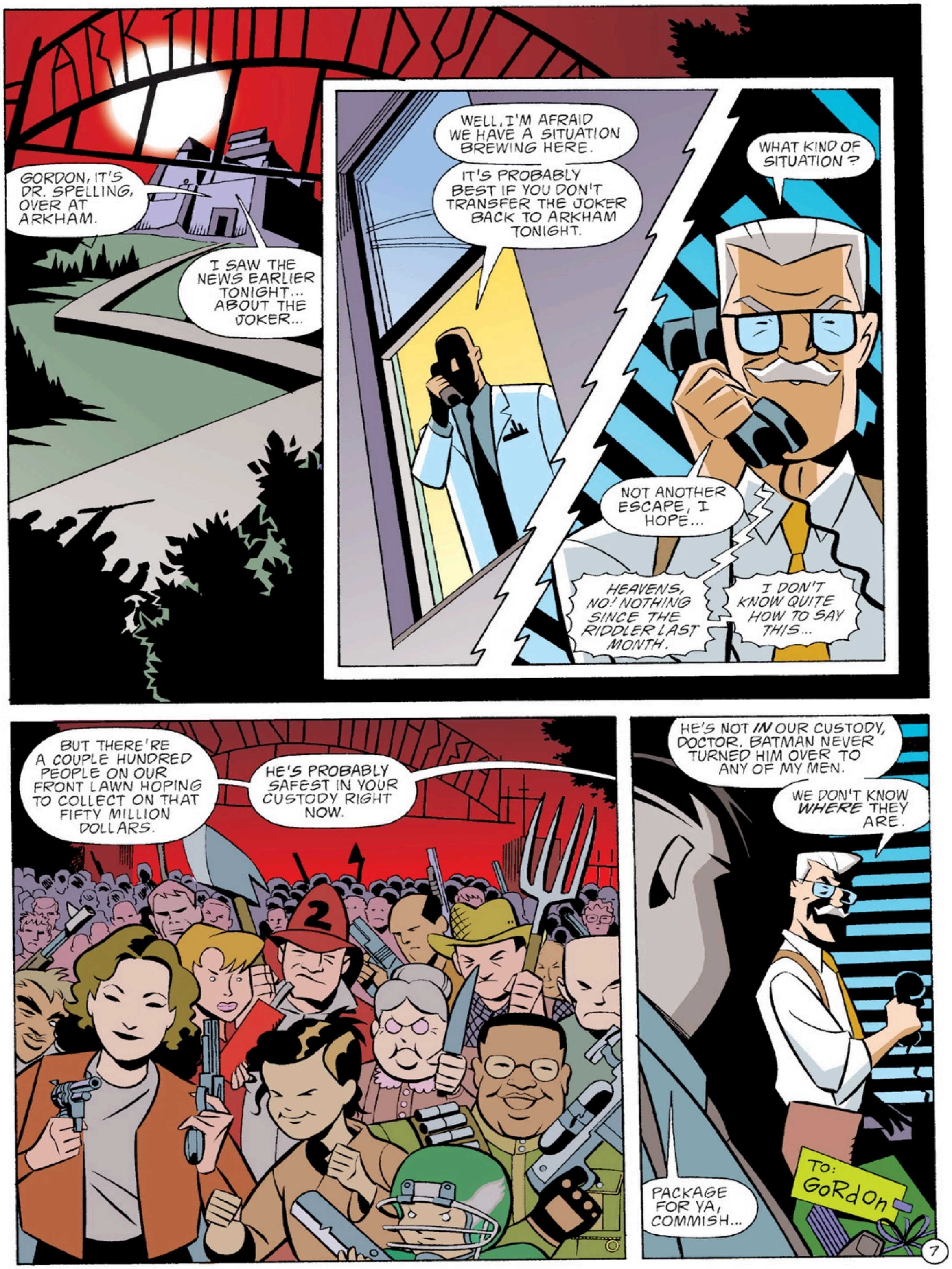

DRAT! YOU'RE STILL COMING AFTER ME?
WHAT IS IT WITH YOU? DO I OWE YOU MONEY?
HEADS UP!
I'M SHOOTING MY MOUTH OFF AGAIN.
HA HA HA HA HAHA
BLAM!
KA-BOOOOM!
ROBIN! STREET LEVEL DAMAGE CONTROL! GO!
AYE AYE, CAPTAIN!

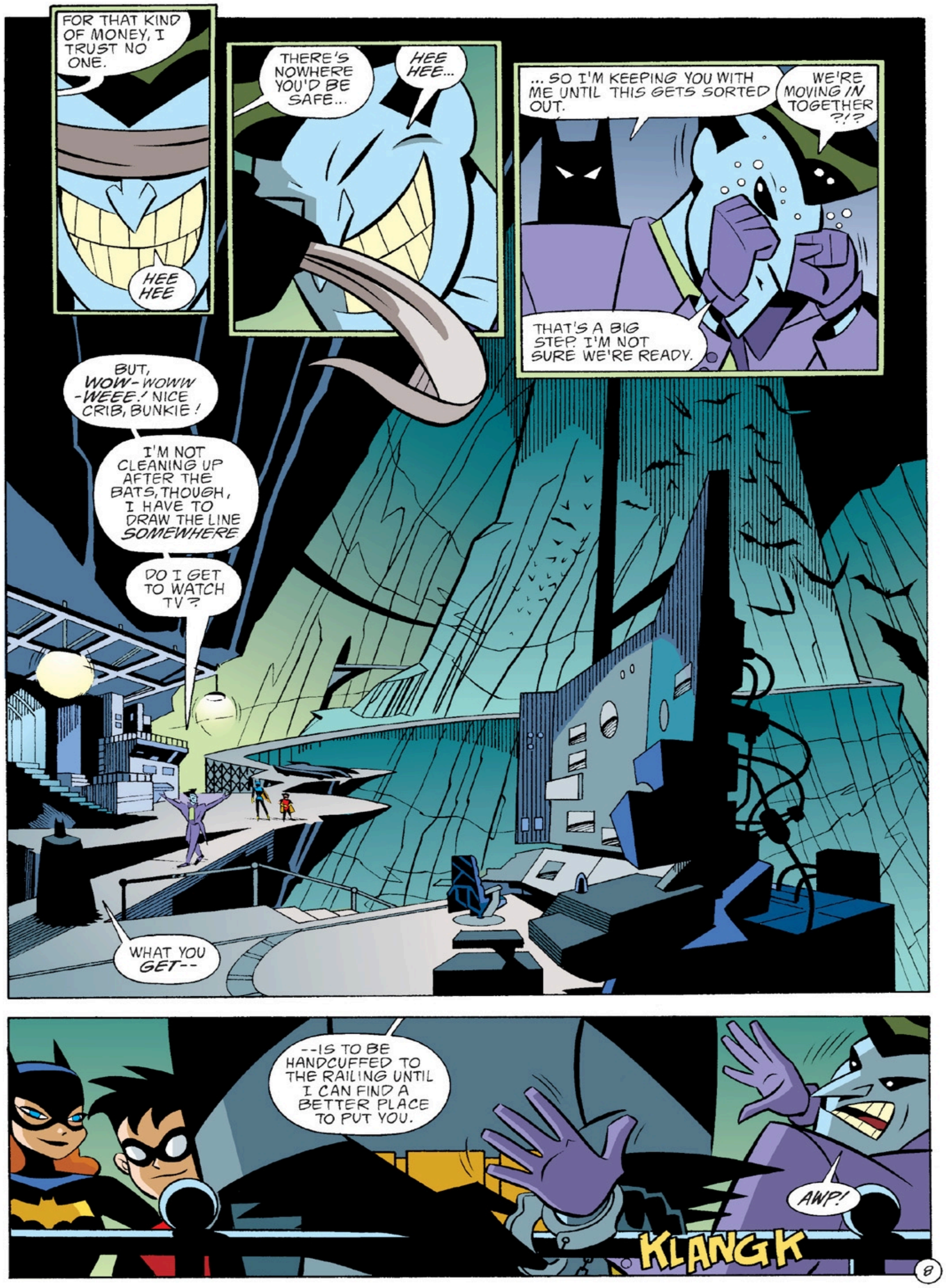

EEEEEEE
YOU'LL HAVE TO KEEP THIS OUR SECRET...
BATMAN SAYS I'M TOO YOUNG TO PICK UP GIRLS.
WE'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT BATMAN AND THE JOKER HAVE BEEN SIGHTED IN GOTHAM SQUARE...
REID
ASTOR
CAMERA CREWS ARE ON THEIR WAY, AND WE'LL CUT AWAY THERE AS SOON AS WE'RE READY.
IN THE MEANTIME, WE'RE ABOUT TO GO TO THE BOARDROOM OF REID PHARMACEUTICALS, WHERE PRESIDENT AND CEO G. DOUGLAS REID HAS CALLED A SUDDEN AND MYSTERIOUS PRESS CONFERENCE.

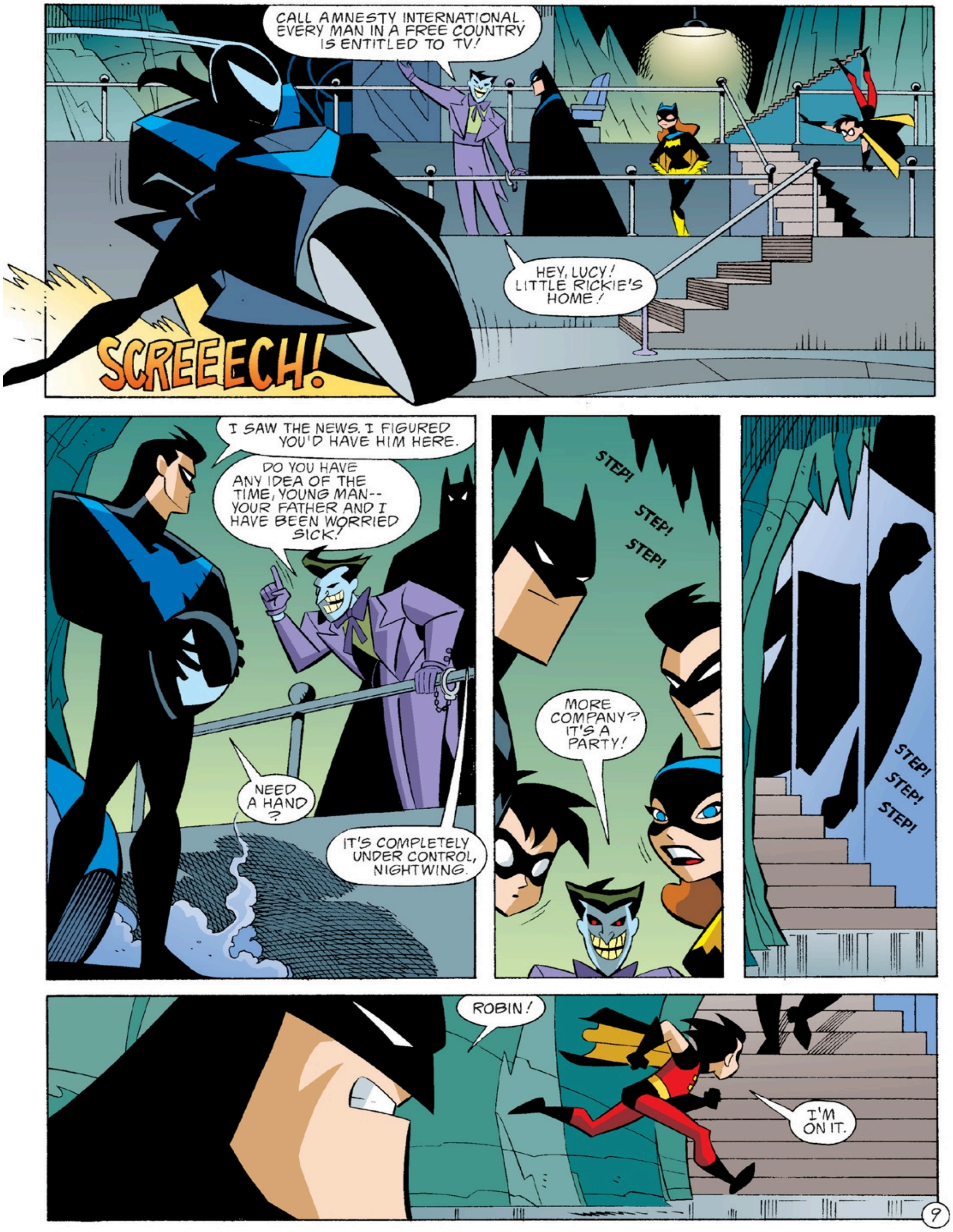

REID HAS LONG BEEN A NEWSMAKER IN GOTHAM CITY...
SINCE HIS UNSUCCESSFUL BID FOR MAYOR EIGHT YEARS AGO.--
--HE HAS STAYED IN THE NEWS WITH HIS SPECTACULAR DONATIONS TO LOCAL HOSPITALS AND CLINICS.
BUT THESE DAYS THE NEWS HAS BEEN TRAGIC FOR THE REID FAMILY.
HE IS PICTURED HERE WITH HIS SON, GLENN, IN A PHOTO TAKEN ONE WEEK AGO--
--JUST TWO DAYS BEFORE GLENN BECAME THE LATEST VICTIM IN THE JOKER'S RECENT CRIME SPREE.
HE HAD IT COMING!
HE SPLASHED MUD ON MY NEW KHAKI WALKING SHORTS.

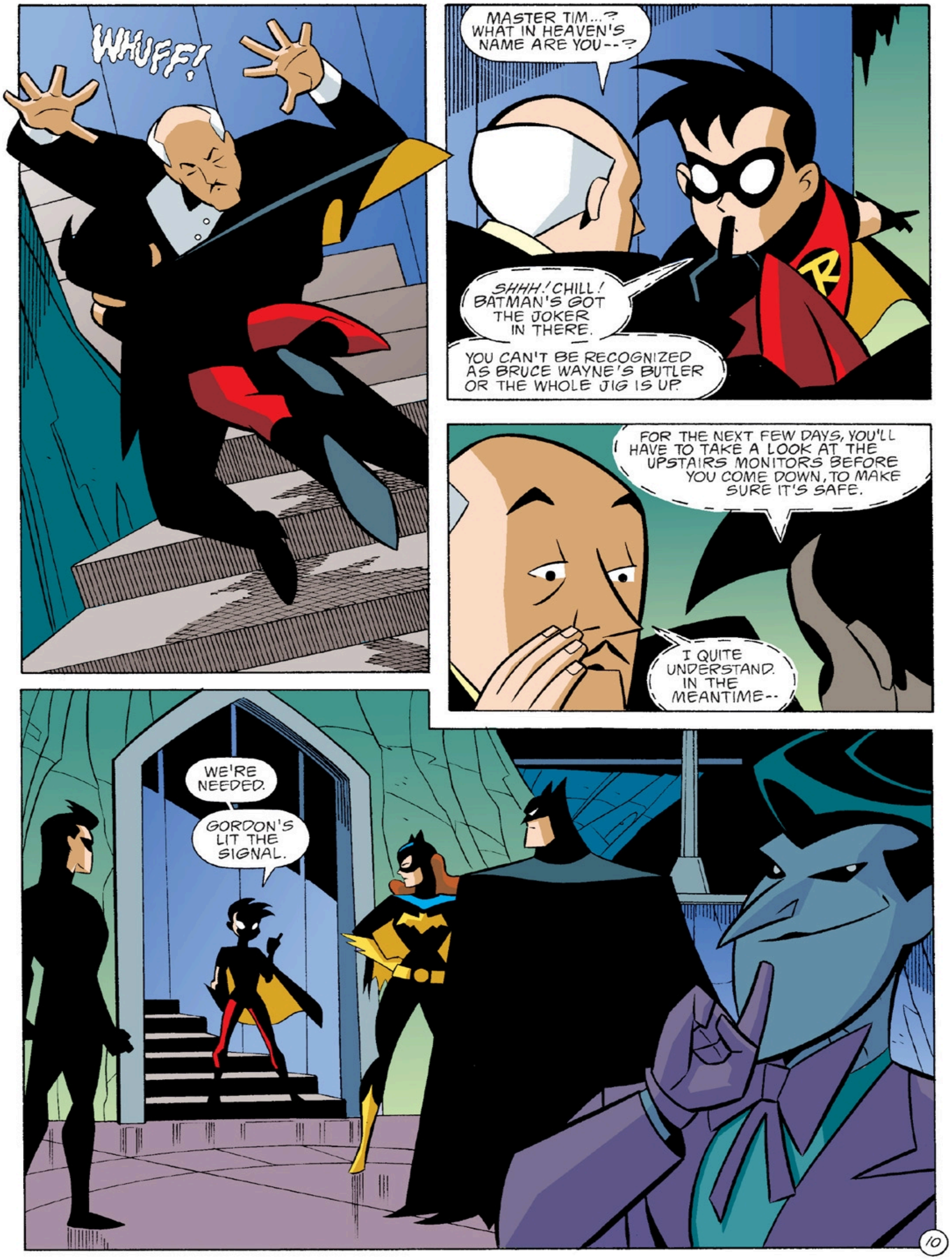

LIVE
ORIGINALLY TONIGHT, I PLANNED TO ANNOUNCE A REWARD FOR THE JOKER'S CAPTURE. I'VE JUST BEEN INFORMED, HOWEVER, THAT MIGHT BE MOMENTS AWAY.
I REALIZE NOW, THAT IT'S NOT ENOUGH. HE WILL NEVER MEET UP WITH JUSTICE IN *LIBERAL* GOTHAM CITY.
HE WILL SIMPLY GO BACK TO HIS COMFORTABLE CELL--
WGBS
CNN
PUFF PUFF PUFF
--AND MY SON WILL STILL BE DEAD.
SO INSTEAD, I'M OFFERING FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE PERSON WHO *KILLS* THIS INHUMAN FIEND, *ONCE AND FOR ALL,* AND MAKES SURE NO OTHER FAMILY HAS TO GO THROUGH WHAT WE'VE SUFFERED.
REWARD
$50,000,000
HAHAHAHAHA
WHAT?!?
MR. REID?
...CAN'T BE SERIOUS...
...THAT'S NOT...
FIFTY *MILLION!* FOR LITTLE OLD *ME?!?*
G. DOUGIE, HOW *FLATTERING!*
THAT'S MORE THAN BASEBALL PLAYERS MAKE, AND THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE TO---
--*AWP!*

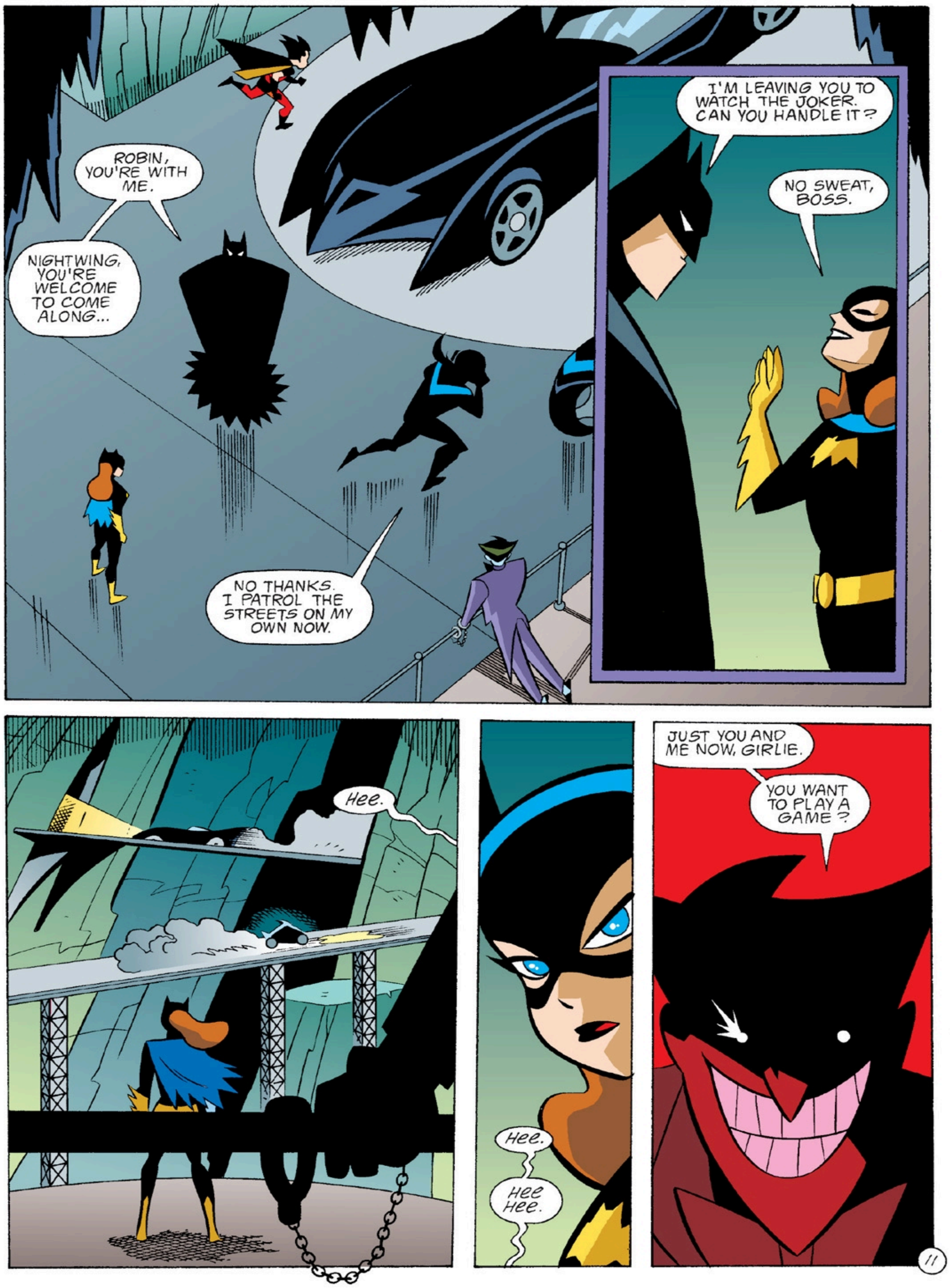

YOU IDIOT! CAN'T YOU SEE THIS IS A ONE-MAN GLOVE? IT WON'T HOLD OUR WEIGHT!
FWOOOSH
"WE'LL BE COMING BACK TO THE REMARKABLE DEVELOPMENTS AT THE REID CORPORATION IN MOMENTS. BUT WE CUT AWAY LIVE NOW--"
"--AS CAMERA CREWS ARE ON THE SCENE OF GOTHAM SQUARE--"
--TO WITNESS BATMAN'S DARING CAPTURE--
--OF GOTHAM'S "FIFTY-MILLION-DOLLAR MAN."

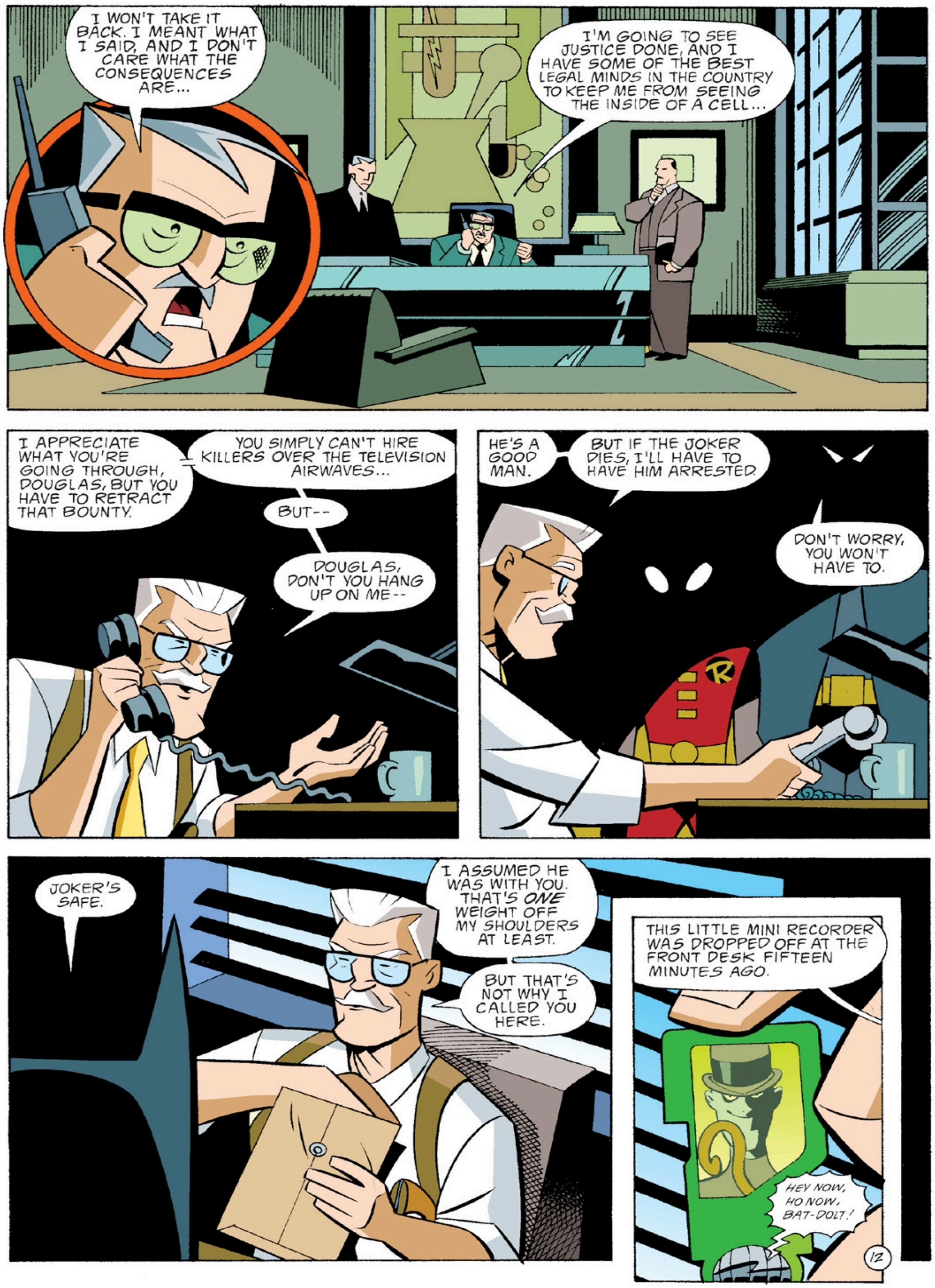

GORDON, IT'S DR. SPELLING, OVER AT ARKHAM.
I SAW THE NEWS EARLIER TONIGHT... ABOUT THE JOKER...
WELL, I'M AFRAID WE HAVE A SITUATION BREWING HERE.
IT'S PROBABLY BEST IF YOU DON'T TRANSFER THE JOKER BACK TO ARKHAM TONIGHT.
WHAT KIND OF SITUATION?
NOT ANOTHER ESCAPE, I HOPE...
HEAVENS, NO! NOTHING SINCE THE RIDDLER LAST MONTH.
I DON'T KNOW QUITE HOW TO SAY THIS...
BUT THERE'RE A COUPLE HUNDRED PEOPLE ON OUR FRONT LAWN HOPING TO COLLECT ON THAT FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS.
HE'S PROBABLY SAFEST IN YOUR CUSTODY RIGHT NOW.
2
HE'S NOT *IN* OUR CUSTODY, DOCTOR. BATMAN NEVER TURNED HIM OVER TO ANY OF MY MEN.
WE DON'T KNOW *WHERE* THEY ARE.
PACKAGE FOR YA, COMMISH...
TO: GoRdOn

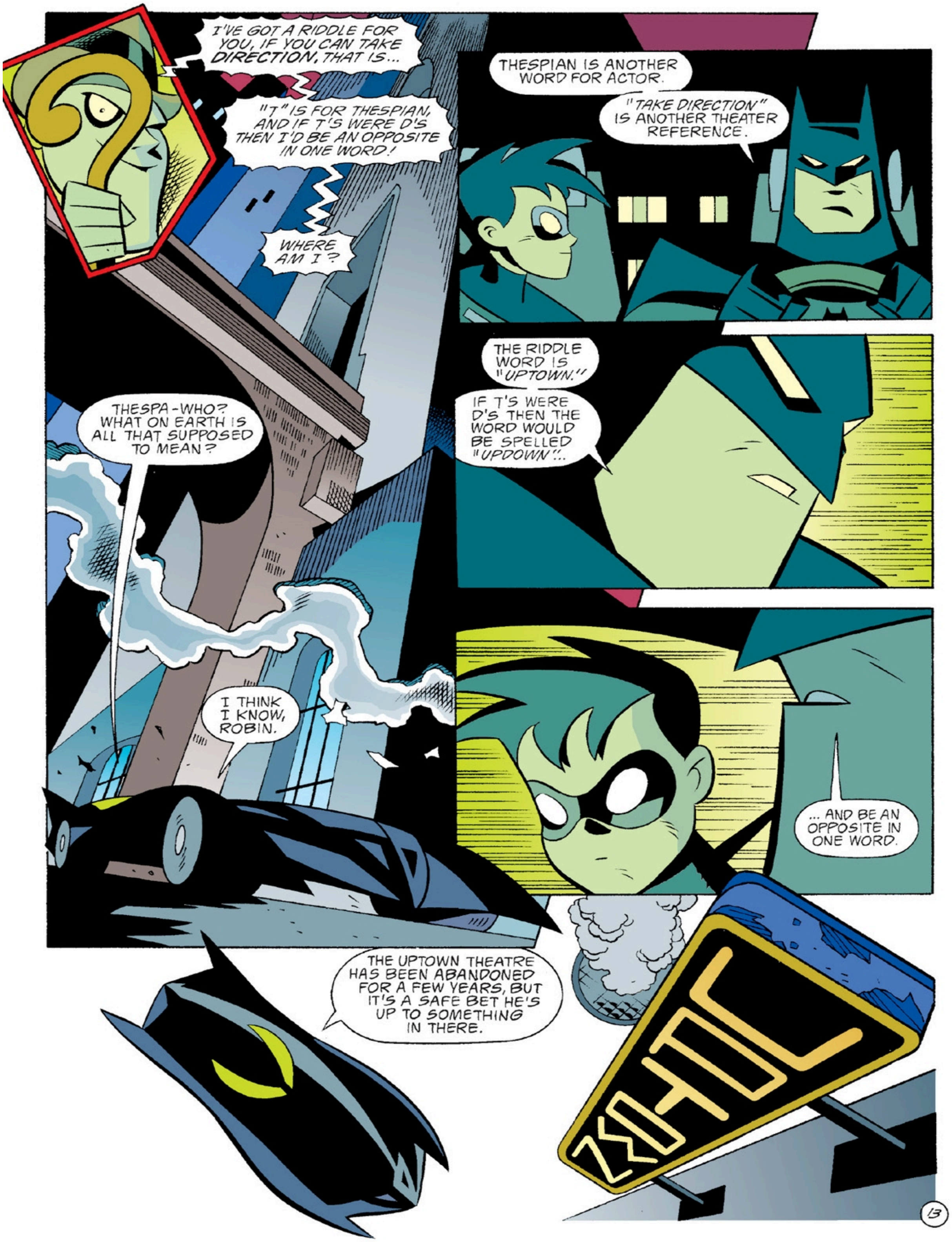

FOR THAT KIND OF MONEY, I TRUST NO ONE.
HEE HEE
THERE'S NOWHERE YOU'D BE SAFE...
HEE HEE...
... SO I'M KEEPING YOU WITH ME UNTIL THIS GETS SORTED OUT.
WE'RE MOVING IN TOGETHER ?!?
THAT'S A BIG STEP. I'M NOT SURE WE'RE READY.
BUT, WOW-WOWW-WEEE! NICE CRIB, BUNKIE!
I'M NOT CLEANING UP AFTER THE BATS, THOUGH. I HAVE TO DRAW THE LINE SOMEWHERE.
DO I GET TO WATCH TV?
WHAT YOU GET--
--IS TO BE HANDCUFFED TO THE RAILING UNTIL I CAN FIND A BETTER PLACE TO PUT YOU.
AWP!
KLANGK

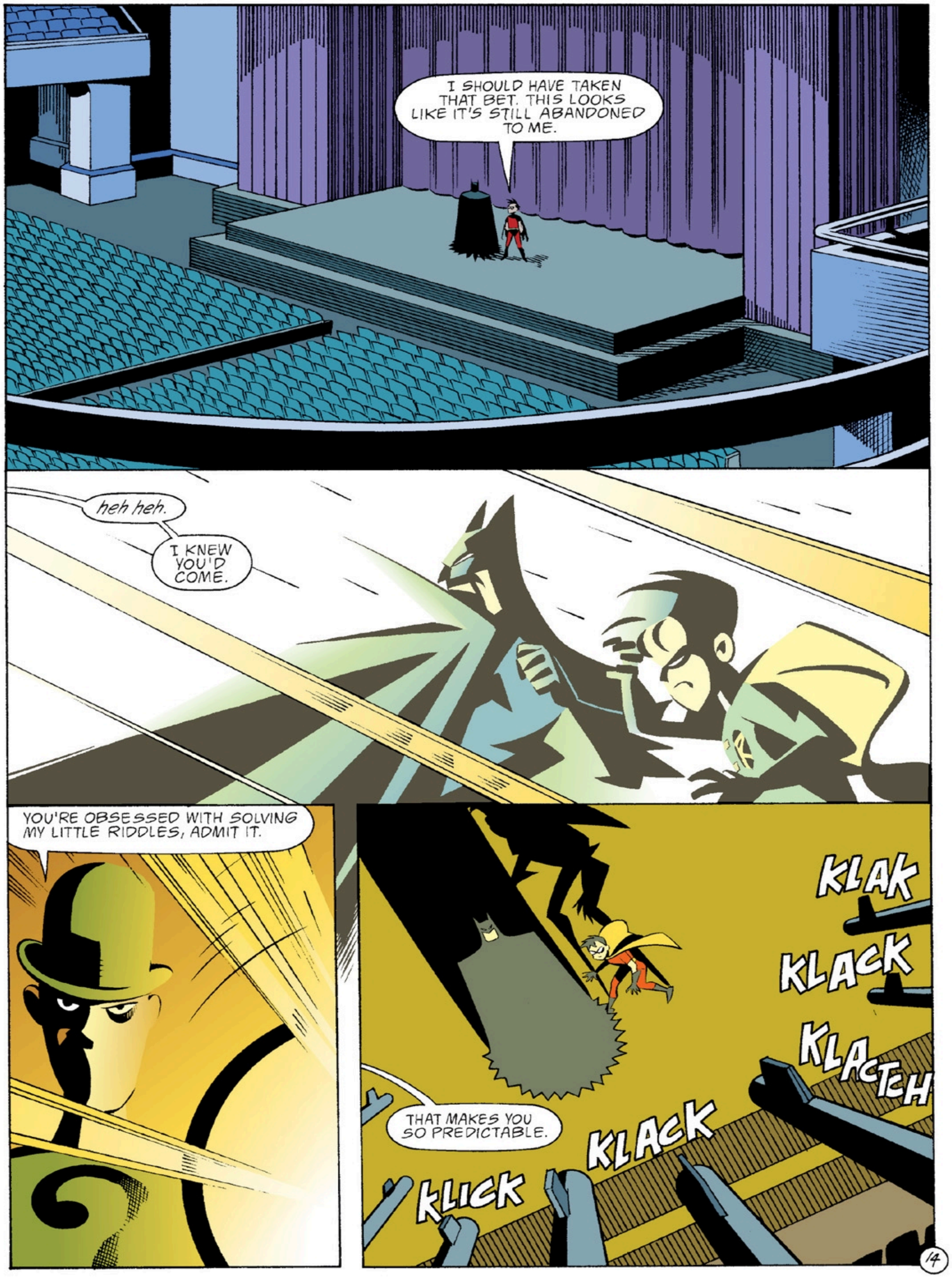

CALL AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. EVERY MAN IN A FREE COUNTRY IS ENTITLED TO TV!
HEY, LUCY! LITTLE RICKIE'S HOME!
SCREEECH!
I SAW THE NEWS. I FIGURED YOU'D HAVE HIM HERE.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA OF THE TIME, YOUNG MAN-- YOUR FATHER AND I HAVE BEEN WORRIED SICK!
NEED A HAND?
IT'S COMPLETELY UNDER CONTROL, NIGHTWING.
STEP!
STEP!
STEP!
MORE COMPANY? IT'S A PARTY!
STEP!
STEP!
STEP!
ROBIN!
I'M ON IT.

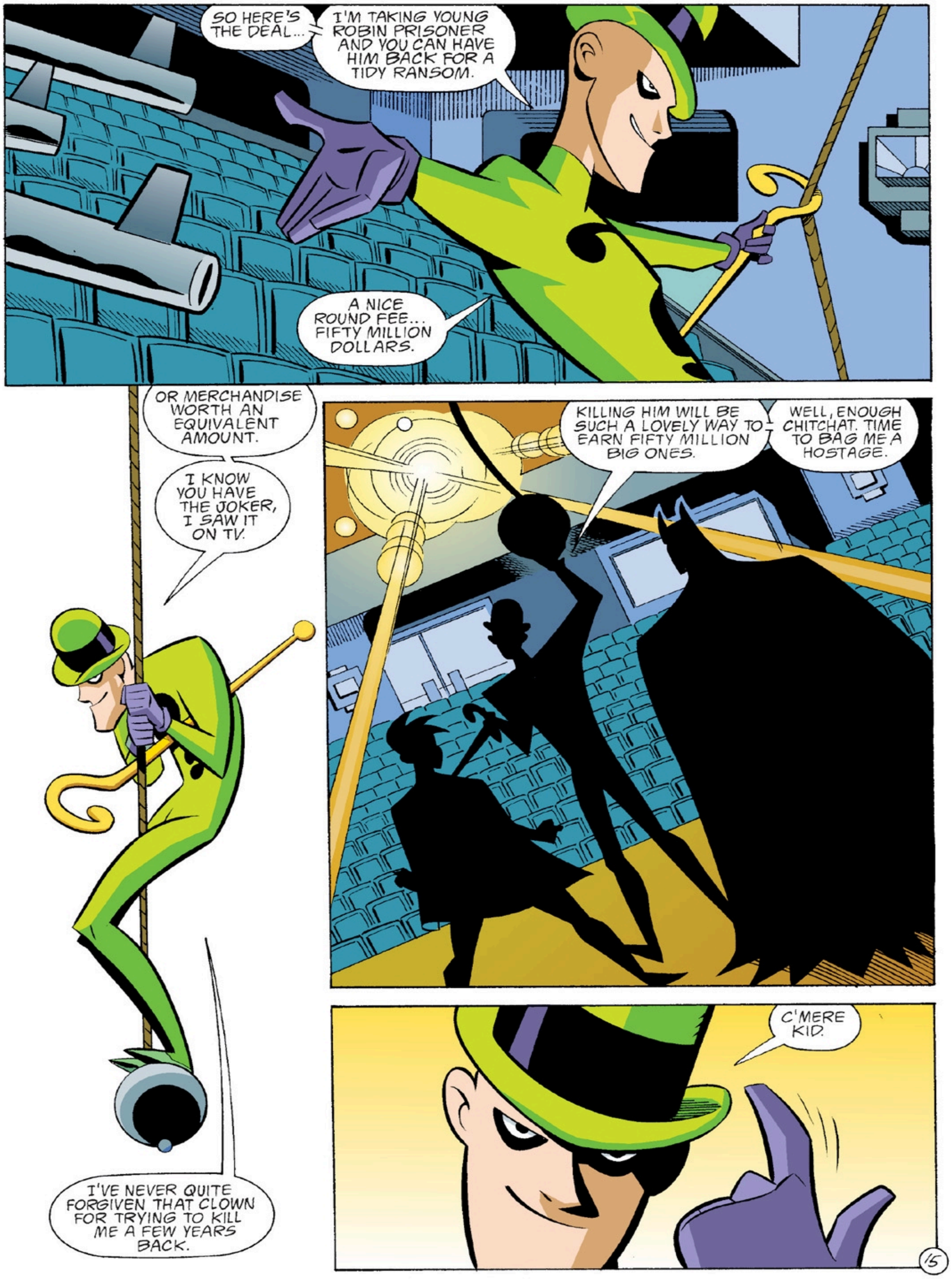

WHUFF!
MASTER TIM...? WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME ARE YOU--?
SHHH! CHILL! BATMAN'S GOT THE JOKER IN THERE.
YOU CAN'T BE RECOGNIZED AS BRUCE WAYNE'S BUTLER OR THE WHOLE JIG IS UP.
FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS, YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE UPSTAIRS MONITORS BEFORE YOU COME DOWN, TO MAKE SURE IT'S SAFE.
I QUITE UNDERSTAND. IN THE MEANTIME--
WE'RE NEEDED.
GORDON'S LIT THE SIGNAL.

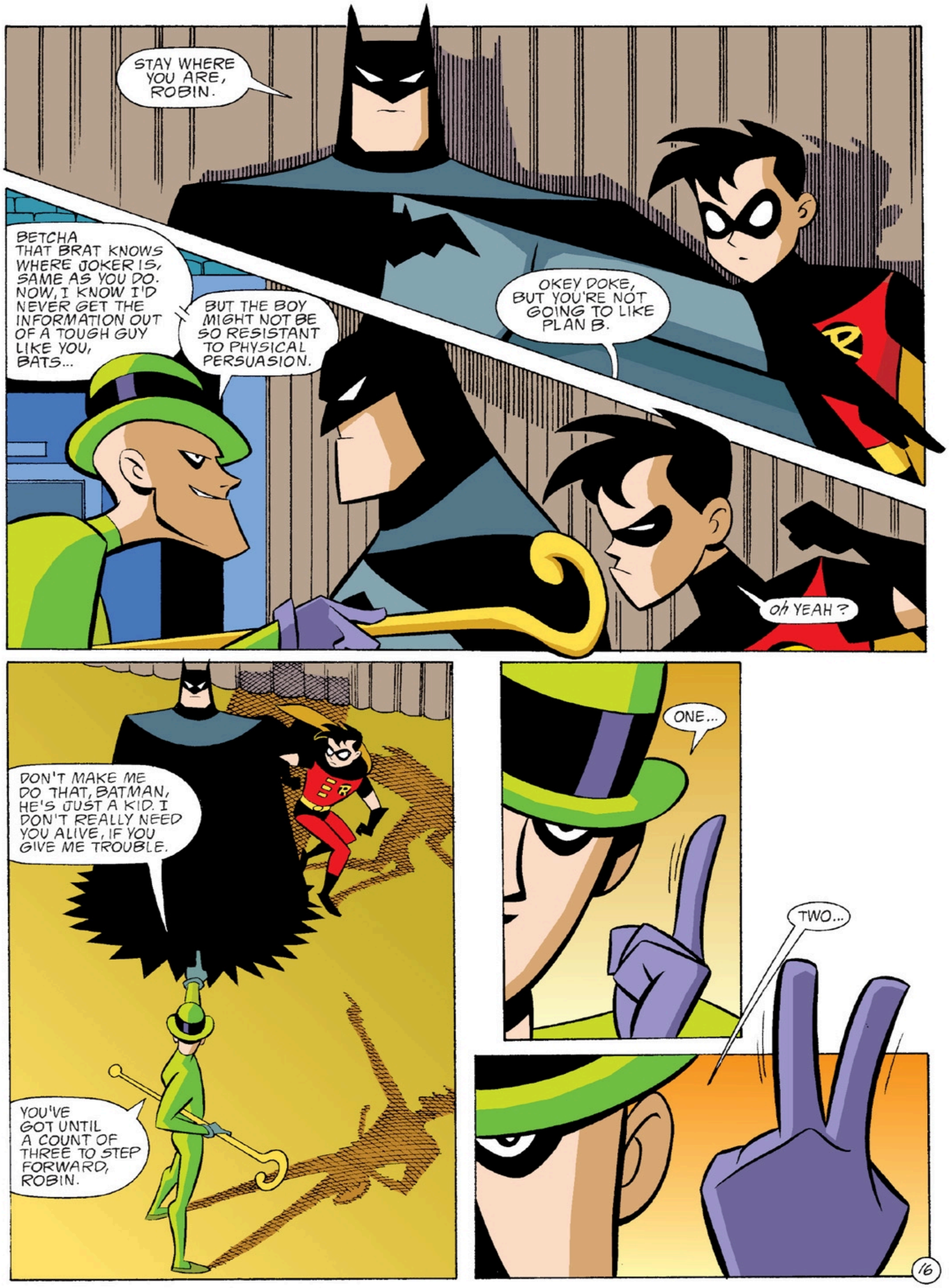

ROBIN, YOU'RE WITH ME.
NIGHTWING, YOU'RE WELCOME TO COME ALONG...
NO THANKS. I PATROL THE STREETS ON MY OWN NOW.
I'M LEAVING YOU TO WATCH THE JOKER. CAN YOU HANDLE IT?
NO SWEAT, BOSS.
Hee.
Hee.
Hee Hee.
JUST YOU AND ME NOW, GIRLIE.
YOU WANT TO PLAY A GAME?

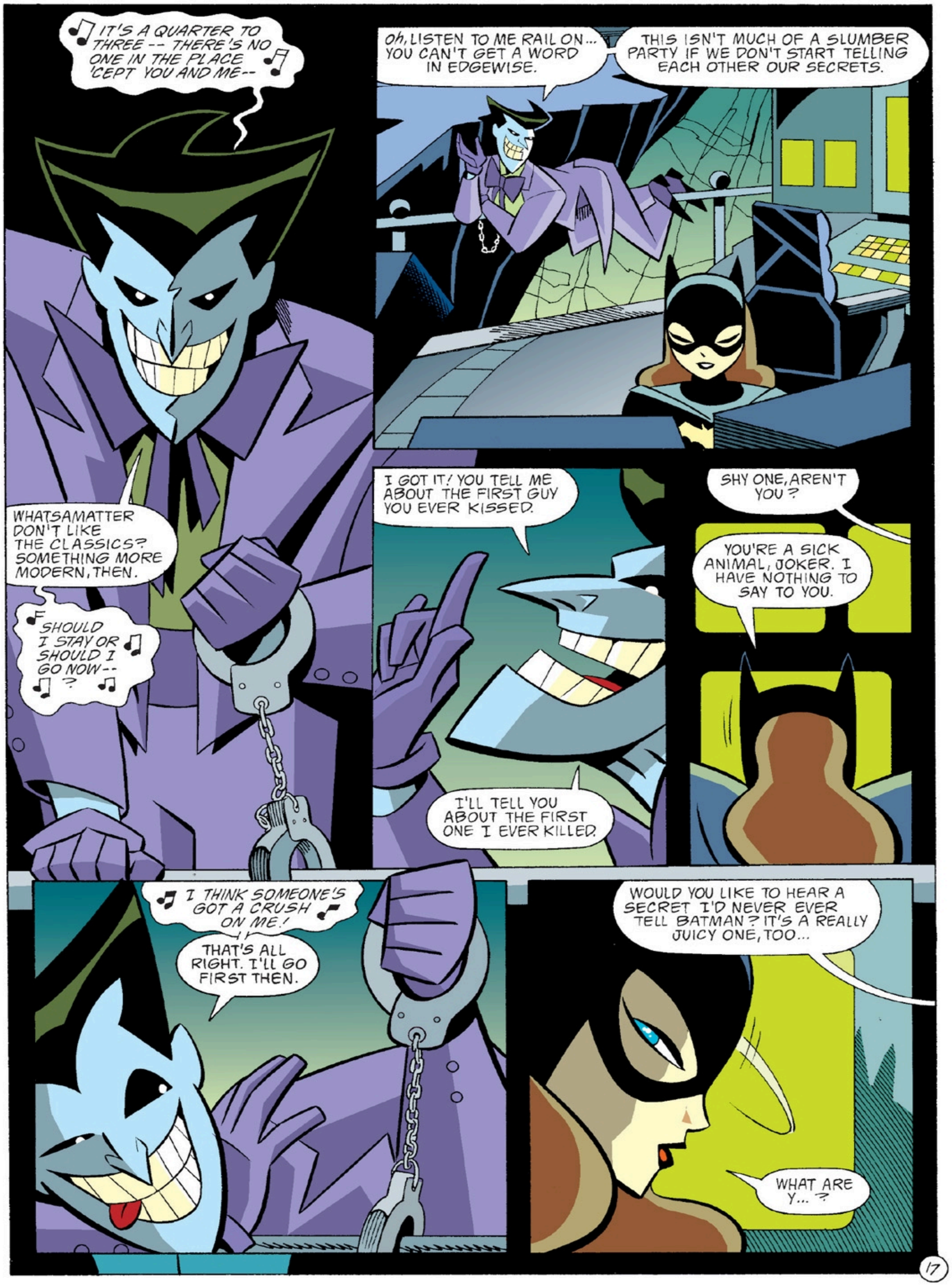

I WON'T TAKE IT BACK. I MEANT WHAT I SAID, AND I DON'T CARE WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES ARE...
I'M GOING TO SEE JUSTICE DONE, AND I HAVE SOME OF THE BEST LEGAL MINDS IN THE COUNTRY TO KEEP ME FROM SEEING THE INSIDE OF A CELL...
I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH, DOUGLAS, BUT YOU HAVE TO RETRACT THAT BOUNTY.
YOU SIMPLY CAN'T HIRE KILLERS OVER THE TELEVISION AIRWAVES...
BUT--
DOUGLAS, DON'T YOU HANG UP ON ME--
HE'S A GOOD MAN.
BUT IF THE JOKER DIES, I'LL HAVE TO HAVE HIM ARRESTED.
DON'T WORRY, YOU WON'T HAVE TO.
JOKER'S SAFE.
I ASSUMED HE WAS WITH YOU. THAT'S *ONE* WEIGHT OFF MY SHOULDERS AT LEAST.
BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I CALLED YOU HERE.
THIS LITTLE MINI RECORDER WAS DROPPED OFF AT THE FRONT DESK FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO.
HEY NOW, HO NOW, BAT-DOLT!

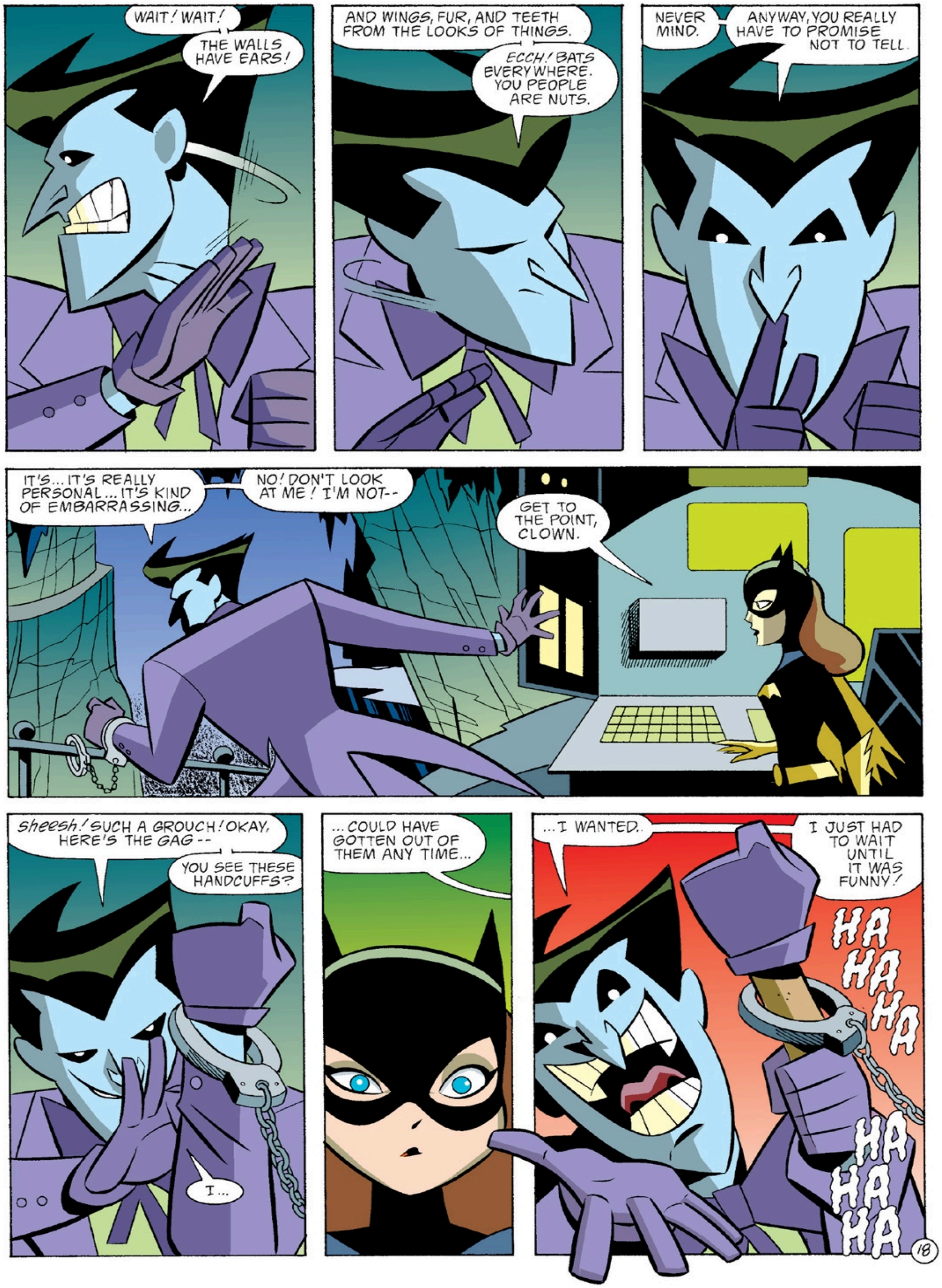

I'VE GOT A RIDDLE FOR YOU, IF YOU CAN TAKE **DIRECTION**, THAT IS...
"T" IS FOR THESPIAN, AND IF T'S WERE D'S THEN I'D BE AN OPPOSITE IN ONE WORD!
WHERE AM I?
THESPA-WHO? WHAT ON EARTH IS ALL THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
I THINK I KNOW, ROBIN.
THESPIAN IS ANOTHER WORD FOR ACTOR.
"TAKE DIRECTION" IS ANOTHER THEATER REFERENCE.
THE RIDDLE WORD IS "UPTOWN."
IF T'S WERE D'S THEN THE WORD WOULD BE SPELLED "UPDOWN"...
... AND BE AN OPPOSITE IN ONE WORD.
THE UPTOWN THEATRE HAS BEEN ABANDONED FOR A FEW YEARS, BUT IT'S A SAFE BET HE'S UP TO SOMETHING IN THERE.
UPTOWN

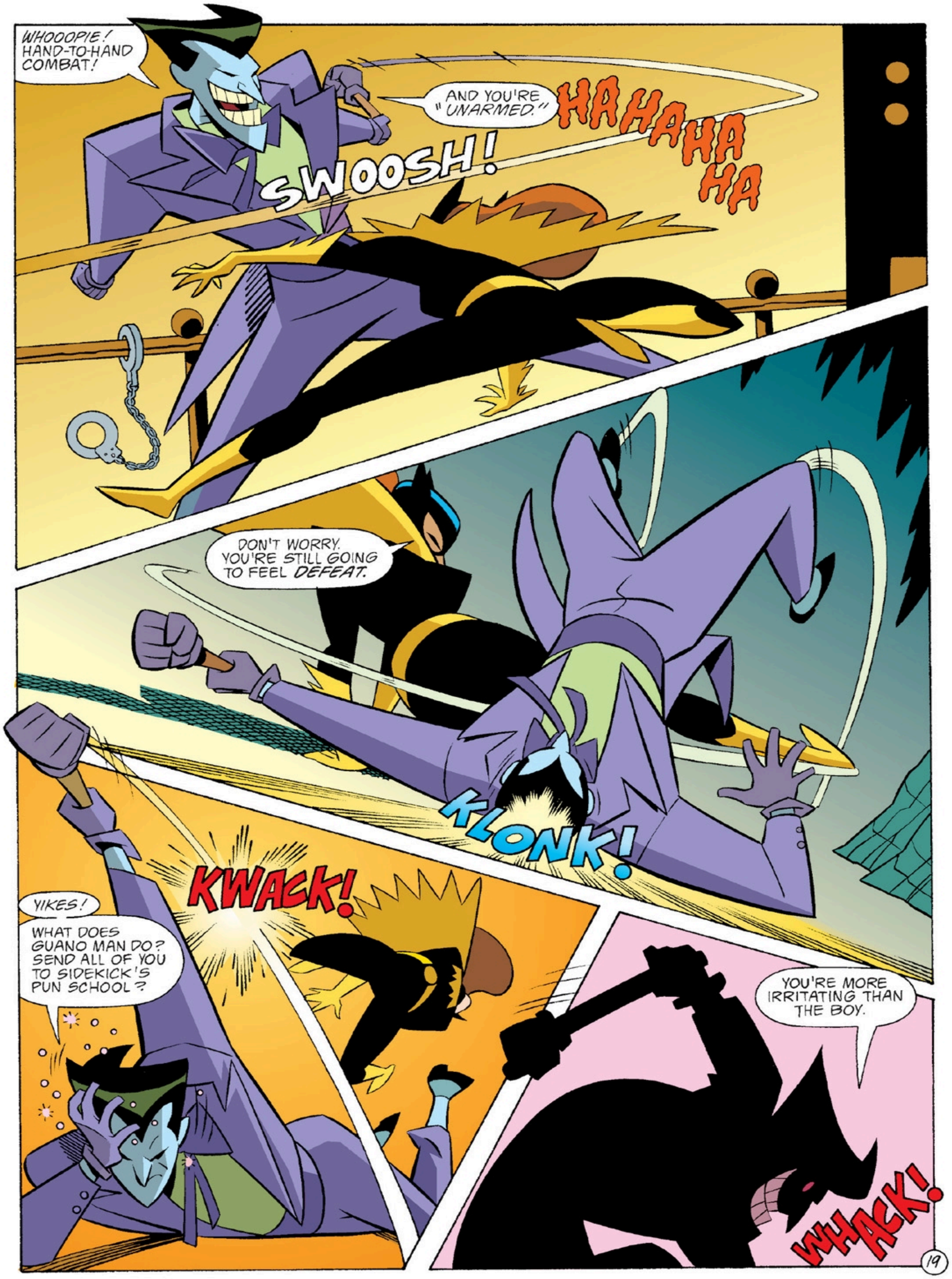

I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THAT BET. THIS LOOKS LIKE IT'S STILL ABANDONED TO ME.
heh heh.
I KNEW YOU'D COME.
YOU'RE OBSESSED WITH SOLVING MY LITTLE RIDDLES, ADMIT IT.
KLAK
KLACK
KLACTCH
THAT MAKES YOU SO PREDICTABLE.
KLACK
KLICK

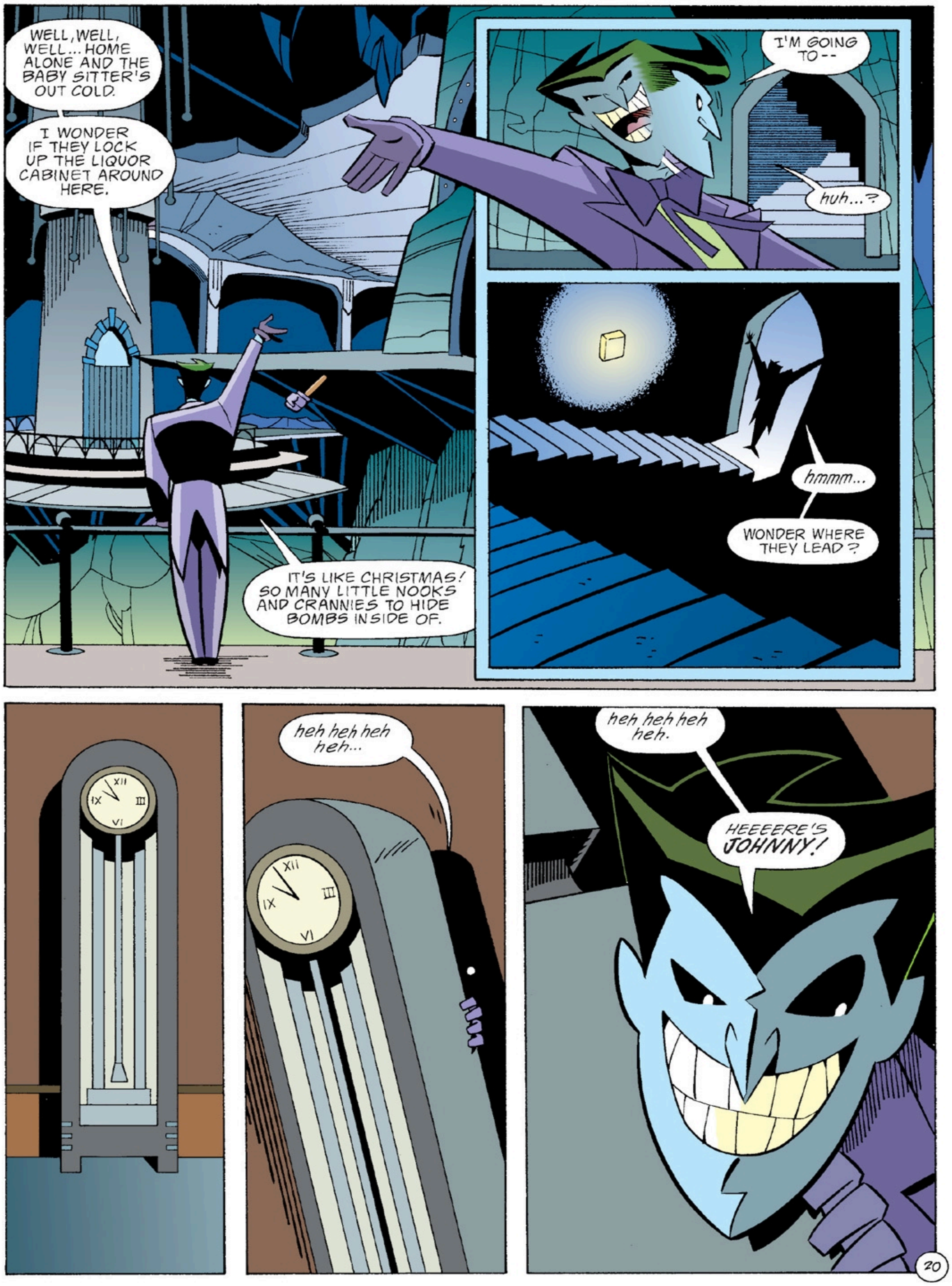

SO HERE'S THE DEAL...
I'M TAKING YOUNG ROBIN PRISONER AND YOU CAN HAVE HIM BACK FOR A TIDY RANSOM.
A NICE ROUND FEE... FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS.
OR MERCHANDISE WORTH AN EQUIVALENT AMOUNT.
I KNOW YOU HAVE THE JOKER, I SAW IT ON TV.
I'VE NEVER QUITE FORGIVEN THAT CLOWN FOR TRYING TO KILL ME A FEW YEARS BACK.
KILLING HIM WILL BE SUCH A LOVELY WAY TO EARN FIFTY MILLION BIG ONES.
WELL, ENOUGH CHITCHAT. TIME TO BAG ME A HOSTAGE.
C'MERE KID.

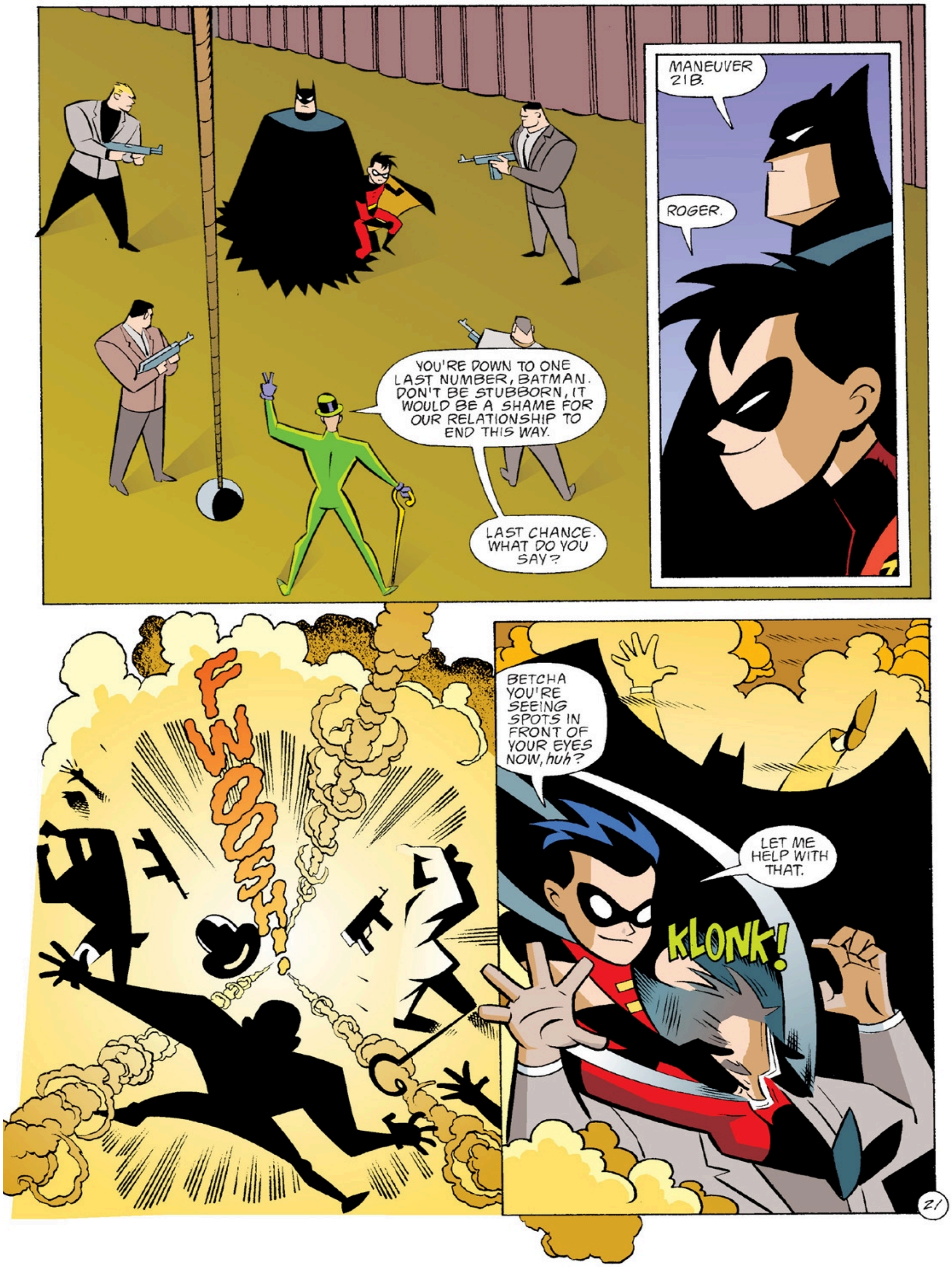

STAY WHERE YOU ARE, ROBIN.
OKEY DOKE, BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE PLAN B.
BETCHA THAT BRAT KNOWS WHERE JOKER IS, SAME AS YOU DO. NOW, I KNOW I'D NEVER GET THE INFORMATION OUT OF A TOUGH GUY LIKE YOU, BATS...
BUT THE BOY MIGHT NOT BE SO RESISTANT TO PHYSICAL PERSUASION.
oh YEAH?
DON'T MAKE ME DO THAT, BATMAN, HE'S JUST A KID. I DON'T REALLY NEED YOU ALIVE, IF YOU GIVE ME TROUBLE.
YOU'VE GOT UNTIL A COUNT OF THREE TO STEP FORWARD, ROBIN.
ONE...
TWO...

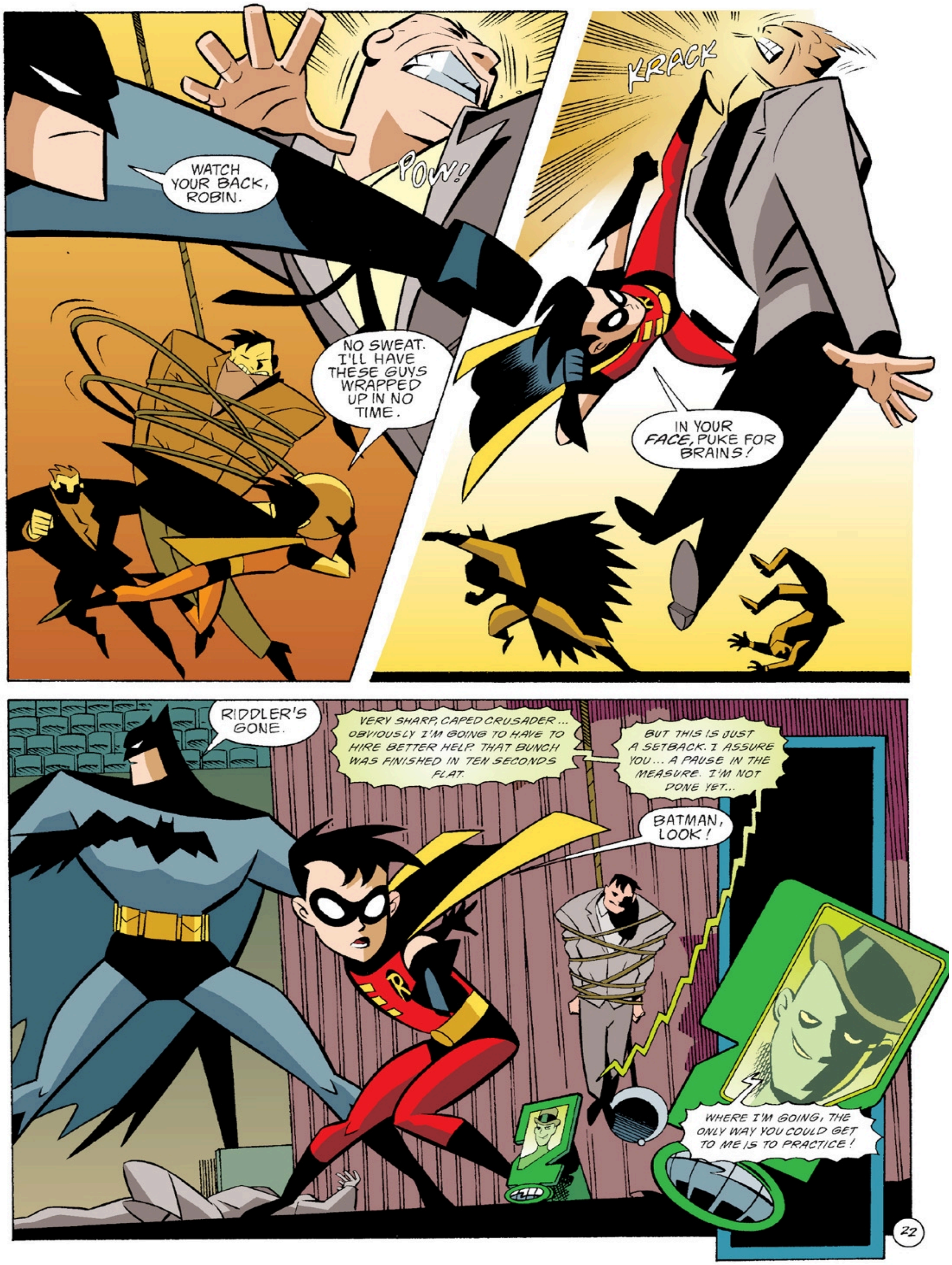

♫ IT'S A QUARTER TO THREE -- THERE'S NO ONE IN THE PLACE 'CEPT YOU AND ME-- ♫
Oh, LISTEN TO ME RAIL ON... YOU CAN'T GET A WORD IN EDGEWISE.
THIS ISN'T MUCH OF A SLUMBER PARTY IF WE DON'T START TELLING EACH OTHER OUR SECRETS.
WHATSAMATTER DON'T LIKE THE CLASSICS? SOMETHING MORE MODERN, THEN.
♫ SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO NOW-- ♫ ? ♫
I GOT IT! YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE FIRST GUY YOU EVER KISSED.
I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THE FIRST ONE I EVER KILLED.
SHY ONE, AREN'T YOU?
YOU'RE A SICK ANIMAL, JOKER. I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU.
♫ I THINK SOMEONE'S GOT A CRUSH ON ME! ♫
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL GO FIRST THEN.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR A SECRET I'D NEVER EVER TELL BATMAN? IT'S A REALLY JUICY ONE, TOO...
WHAT ARE Y...?

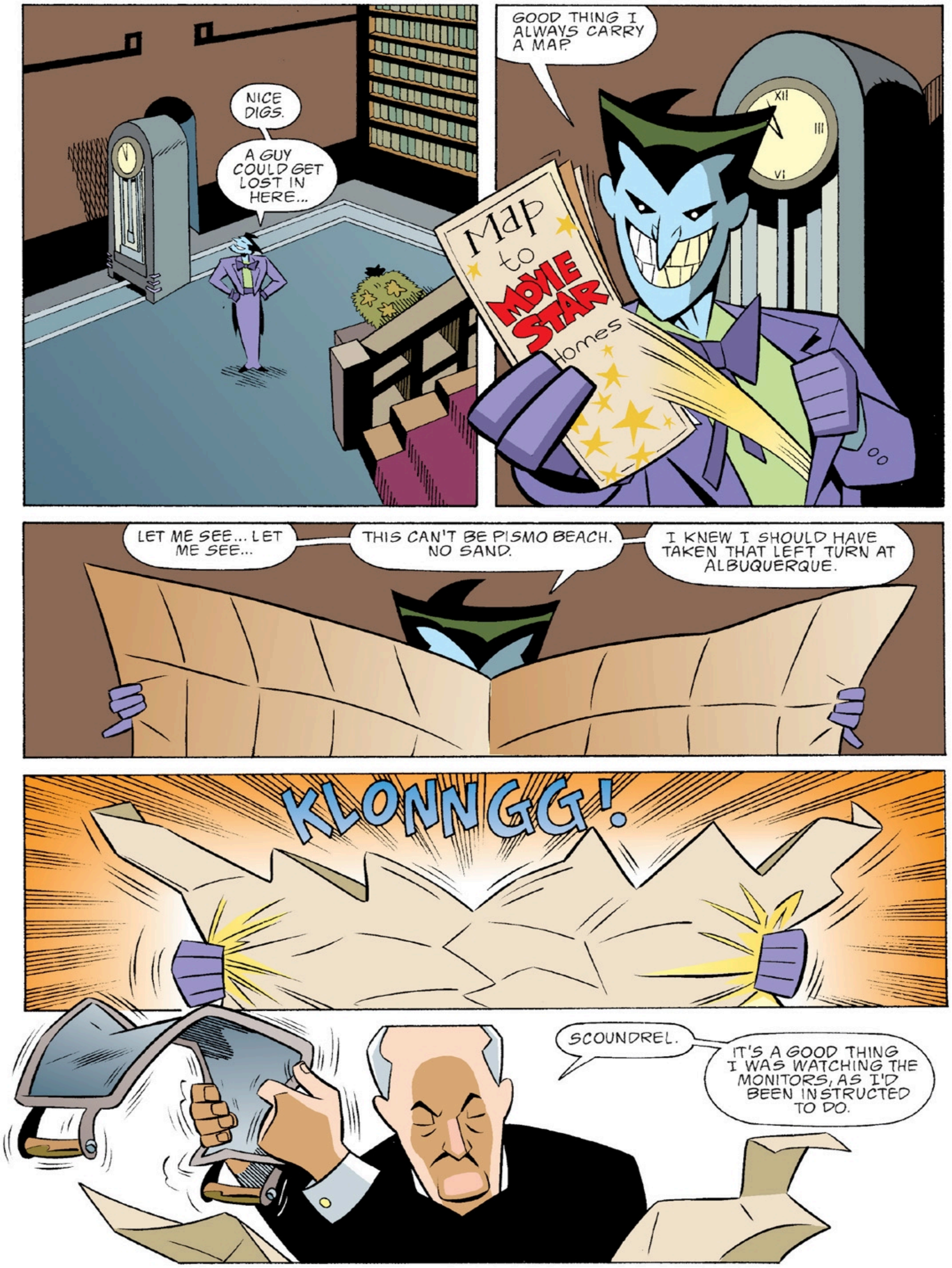

WAIT! WAIT!
THE WALLS HAVE EARS!
AND WINGS, FUR, AND TEETH FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS.
ECCH! BATS EVERYWHERE. YOU PEOPLE ARE NUTS.
NEVER MIND.
ANYWAY, YOU REALLY HAVE TO PROMISE NOT TO TELL.
IT'S... IT'S REALLY PERSONAL... IT'S KIND OF EMBARRASSING...
NO! DON'T LOOK AT ME! I'M NOT--
GET TO THE POINT, CLOWN.
Sheesh! SUCH A GROUCH! OKAY, HERE'S THE GAG--
YOU SEE THESE HANDCUFFS?
I...
...COULD HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF THEM ANY TIME...
...I WANTED.
I JUST HAD TO WAIT UNTIL IT WAS FUNNY!
HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA

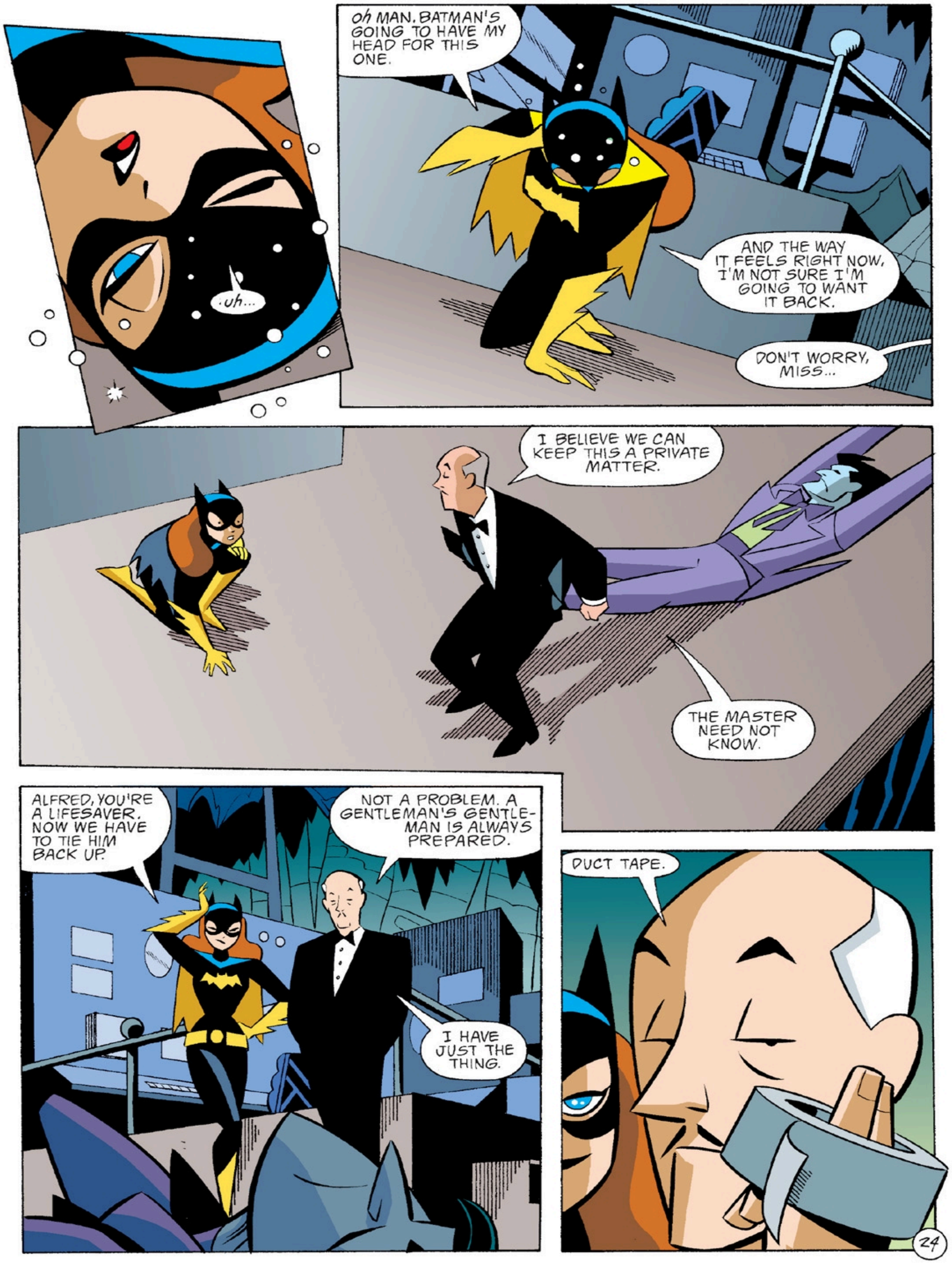

WHOOOPIE! HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT!
AND YOU'RE "UNARMED."
HAHAHAHAHA
SWOOSH!
DON'T WORRY. YOU'RE STILL GOING TO FEEL DEFEAT.
KLONK!
KWACK!
YIKES!
WHAT DOES GUANO MAN DO? SEND ALL OF YOU TO SIDEKICK'S PUN SCHOOL?
YOU'RE MORE IRRITATING THAN THE BOY.
WHACK!

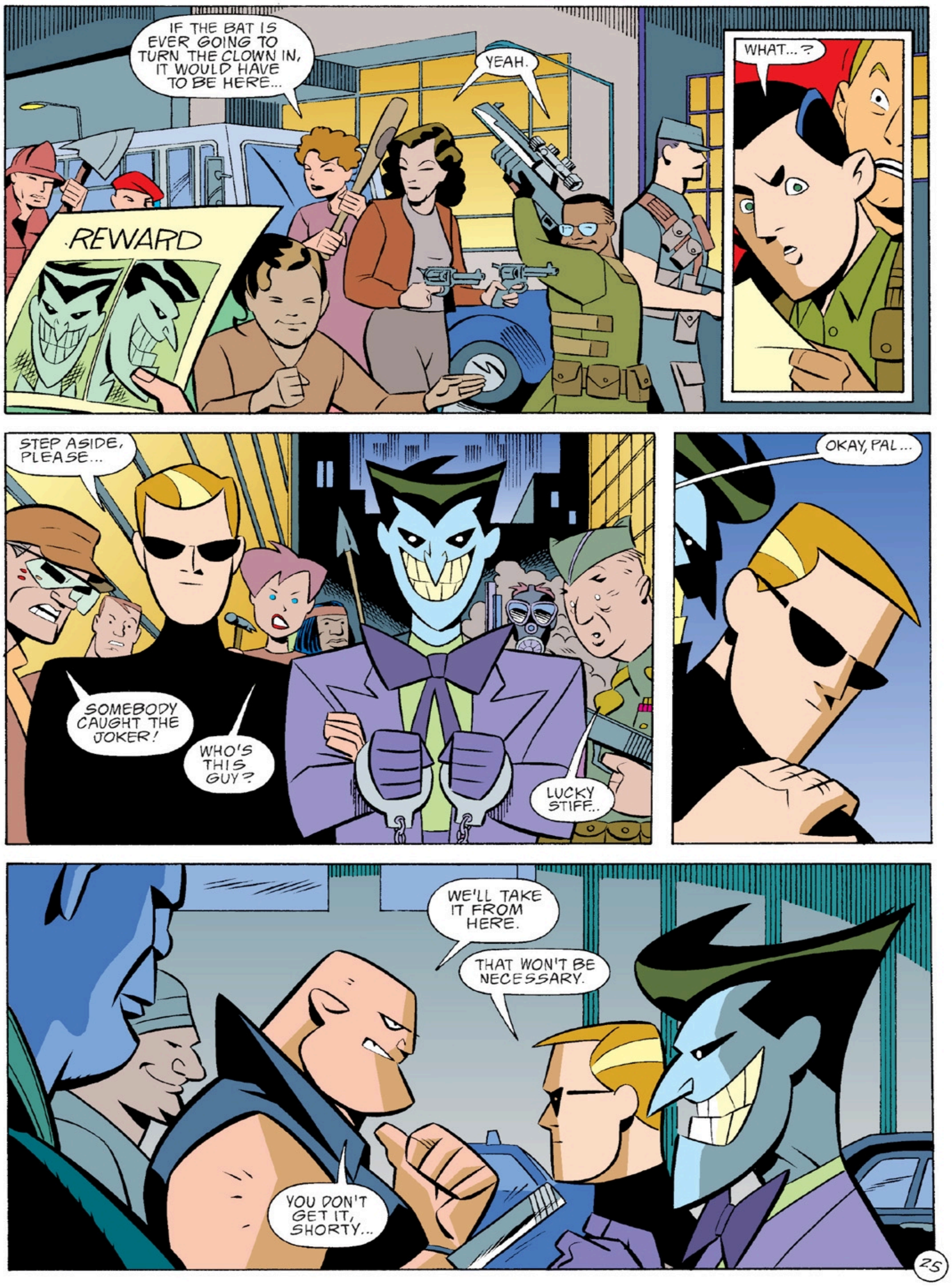

WELL, WELL, WELL... HOME ALONE AND THE BABY SITTER'S OUT COLD.
I WONDER IF THEY LOCK UP THE LIQUOR CABINET AROUND HERE.
IT'S LIKE CHRISTMAS! SO MANY LITTLE NOOKS AND CRANNIES TO HIDE BOMBS INSIDE OF.
I'M GOING TO --
huh...?
hmmm...
WONDER WHERE THEY LEAD?
heh heh heh heh...
heh heh heh heh.
HEEEERE'S JOHNNY!

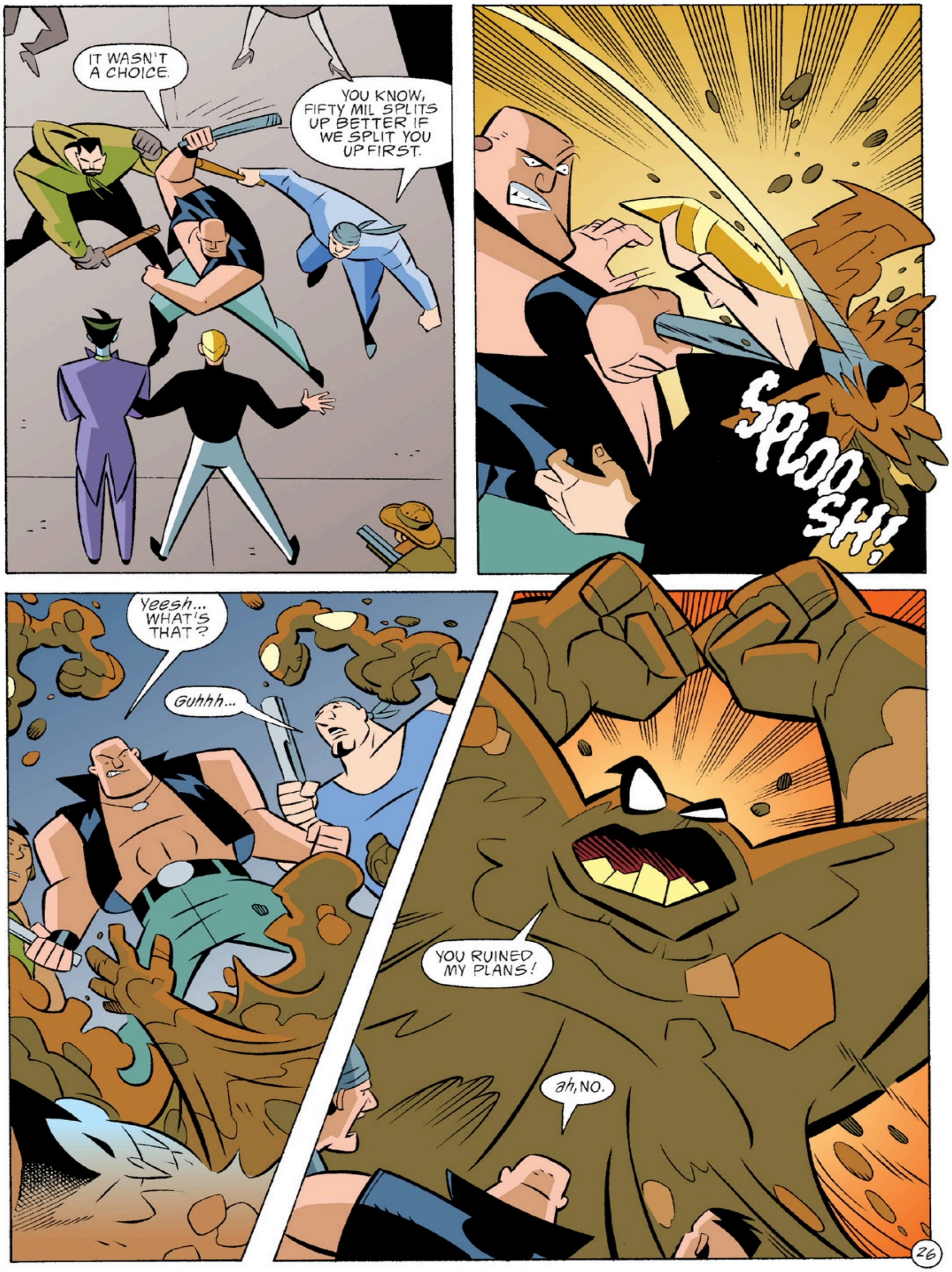

YOU'RE DOWN TO ONE LAST NUMBER, BATMAN. DON'T BE STUBBORN, IT WOULD BE A SHAME FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP TO END THIS WAY.
LAST CHANCE. WHAT DO YOU SAY?
MANEUVER 21B.
ROGER.
FWOOSH!
BETCHA YOU'RE SEEING SPOTS IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES NOW, *huh*?
LET ME HELP WITH THAT.
KLONK!

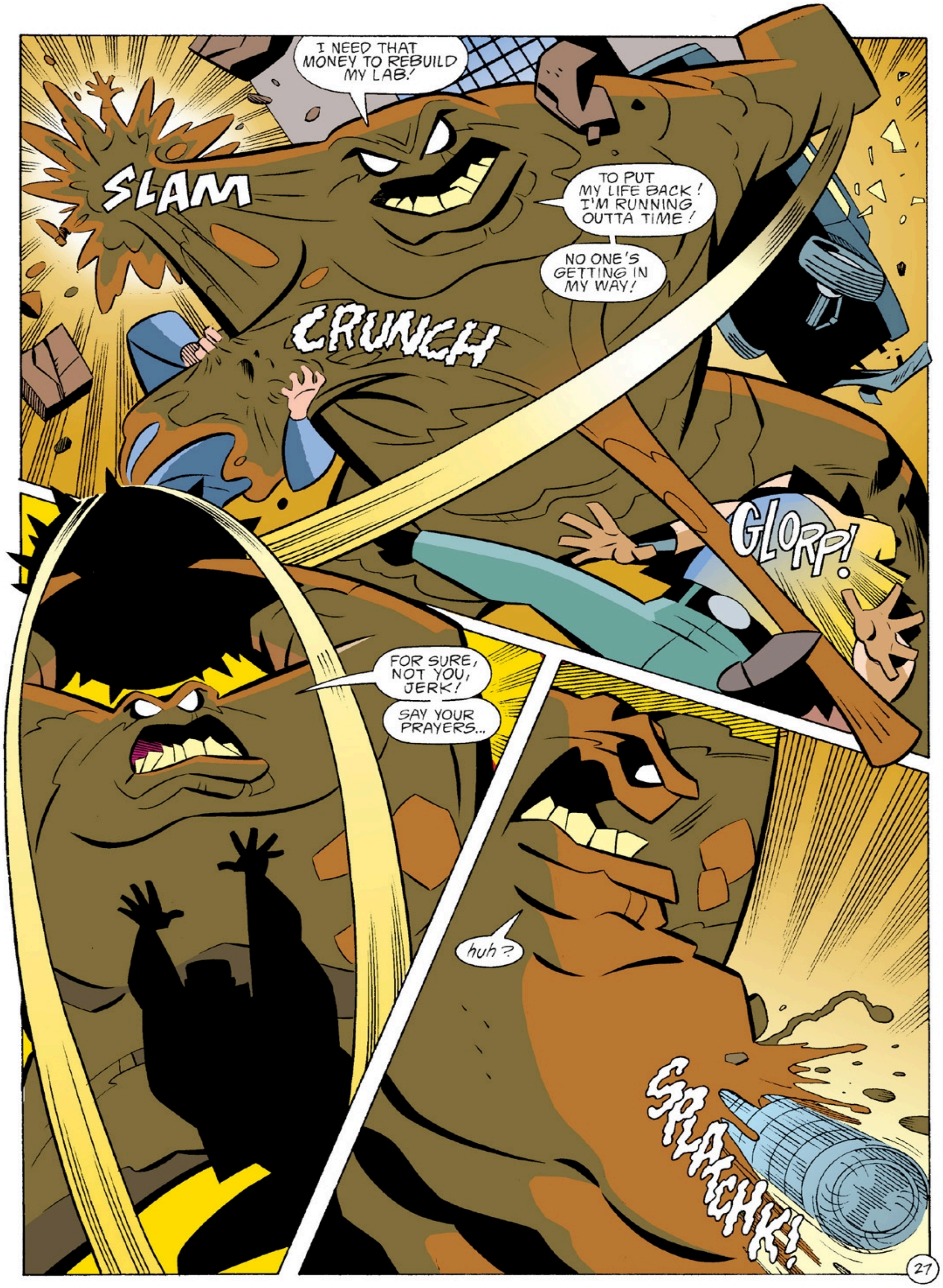

WATCH YOUR BACK, ROBIN.
POW!
NO SWEAT. I'LL HAVE THESE GUYS WRAPPED UP IN NO TIME.
KRACK
IN YOUR *FACE*, PUKE FOR BRAINS!
RIDDLER'S GONE.
VERY SHARP, CAPED CRUSADER... OBVIOUSLY I'M GOING TO HAVE TO HIRE BETTER HELP. THAT BUNCH WAS FINISHED IN TEN SECONDS FLAT.
BUT THIS IS JUST A SETBACK, I ASSURE YOU... A PAUSE IN THE MEASURE. I'M NOT DONE YET...
BATMAN, LOOK!
WHERE I'M GOING, THE ONLY WAY YOU COULD GET TO ME IS TO PRACTICE!

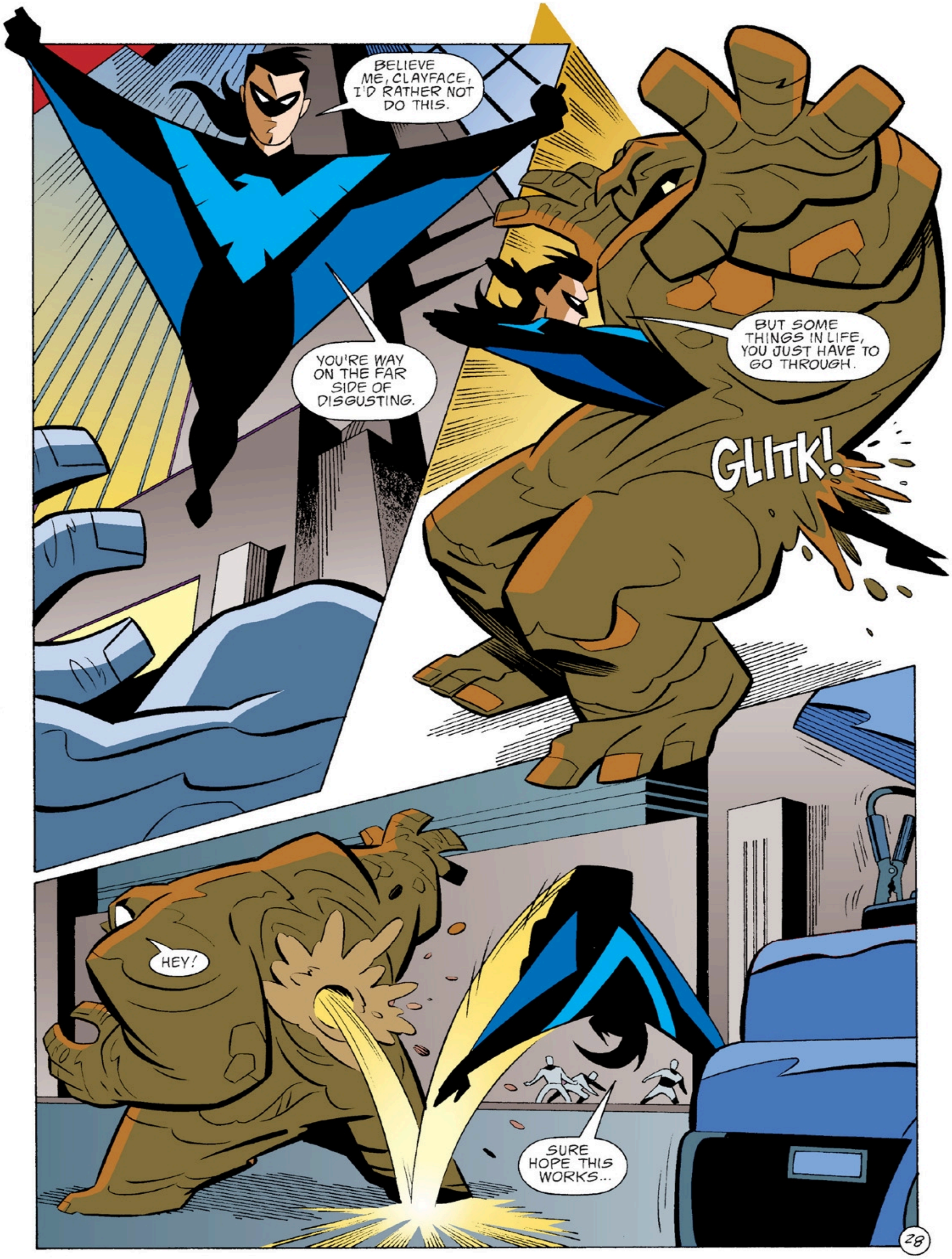

NICE DIGS.
A GUY COULD GET LOST IN HERE...
GOOD THING I ALWAYS CARRY A MAP.
Map to MOVIE STAR Homes
LET ME SEE... LET ME SEE...
THIS CAN'T BE PISMO BEACH. NO SAND.
I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THAT LEFT TURN AT ALBUQUERQUE.
KLONNGG!
SCOUNDREL.
IT'S A GOOD THING I WAS WATCHING THE MONITORS, AS I'D BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DO.

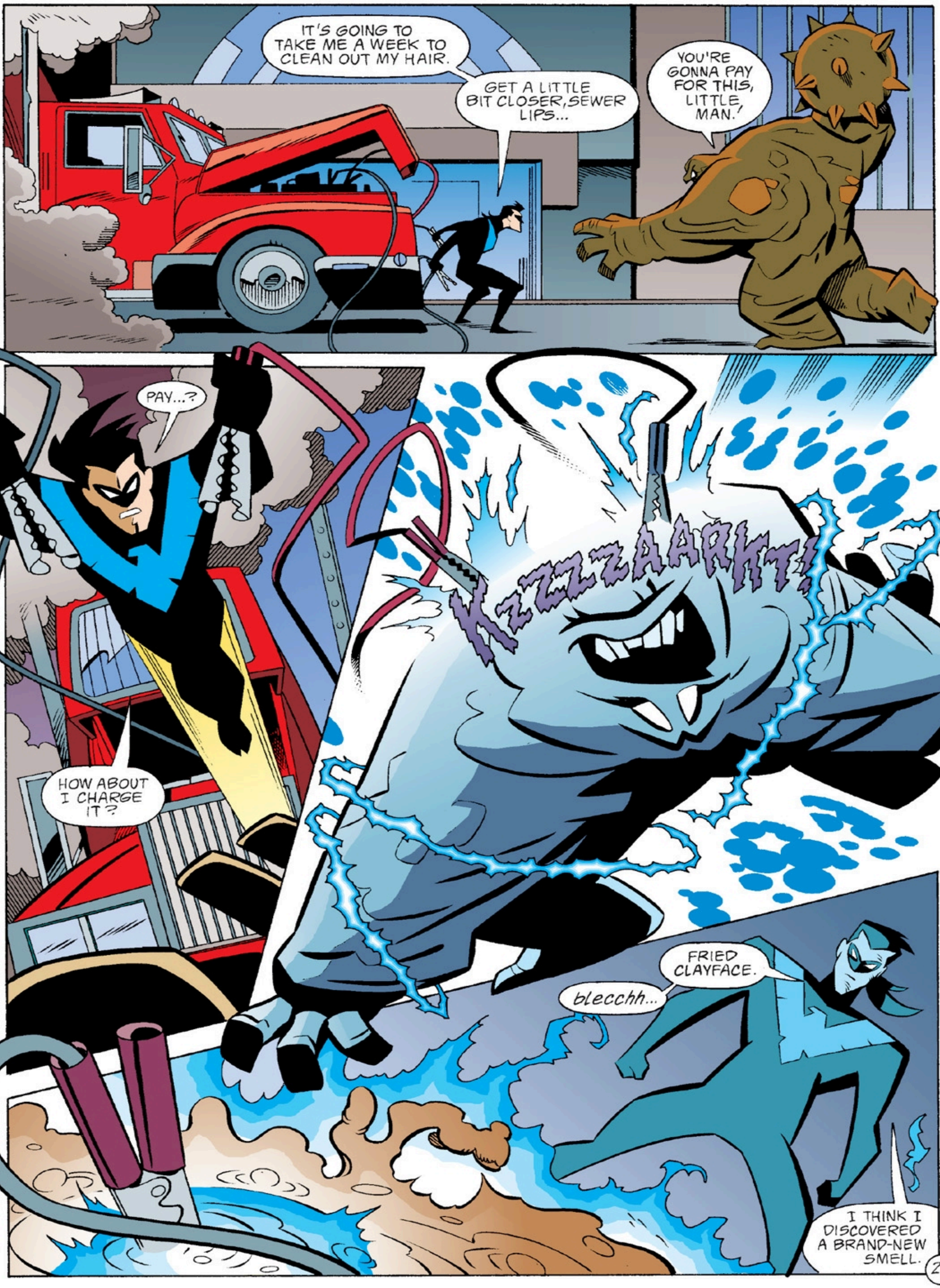

uh...
oh MAN. BATMAN'S GOING TO HAVE MY HEAD FOR THIS ONE.
AND THE WAY IT FEELS RIGHT NOW, I'M NOT SURE I'M GOING TO WANT IT BACK.
DON'T WORRY, MISS...
I BELIEVE WE CAN KEEP THIS A PRIVATE MATTER.
THE MASTER NEED NOT KNOW.
ALFRED, YOU'RE A LIFESAVER. NOW WE HAVE TO TIE HIM BACK UP.
NOT A PROBLEM. A GENTLEMAN'S GENTLEMAN IS ALWAYS PREPARED.
I HAVE JUST THE THING.
DUCT TAPE.

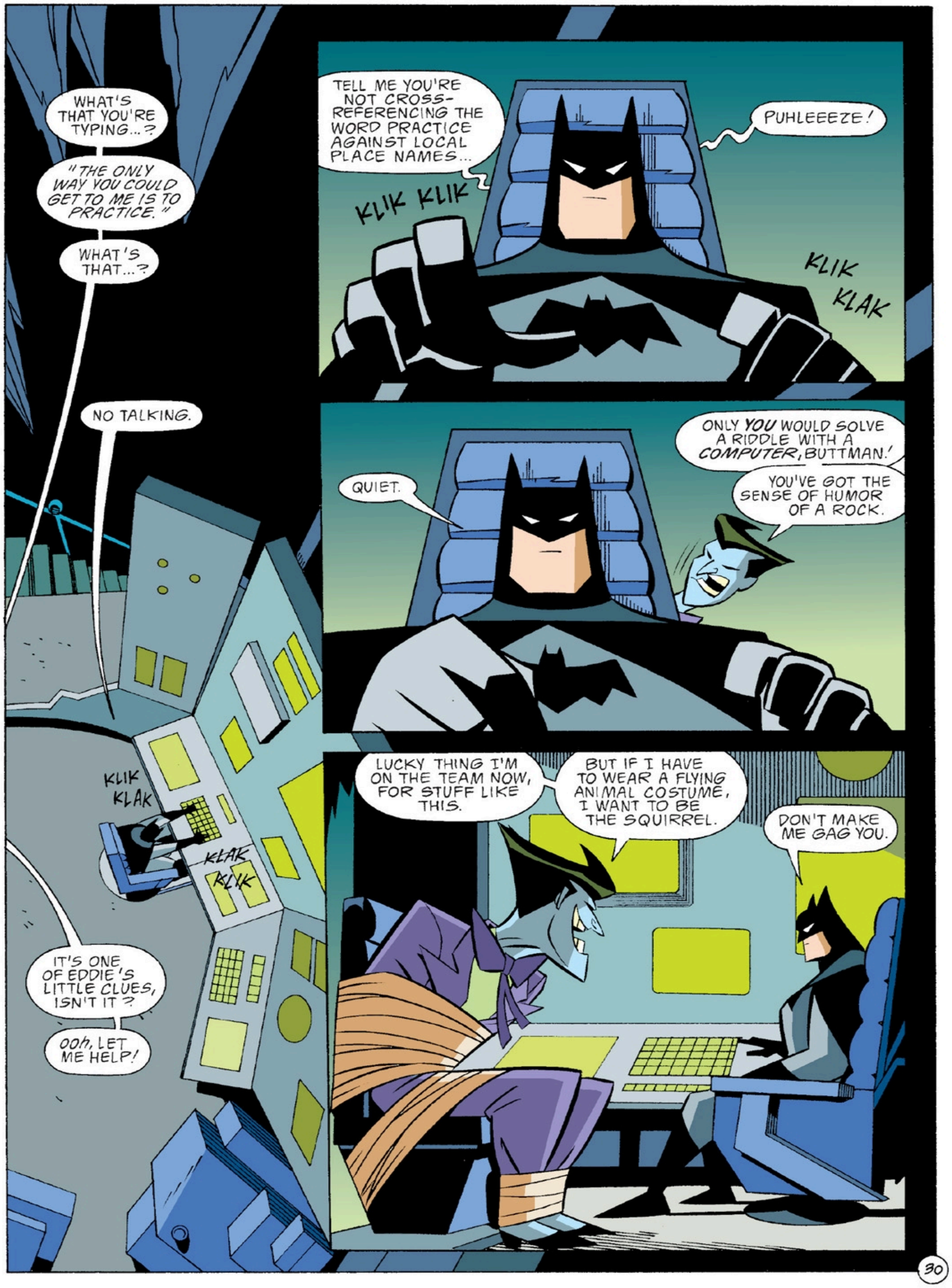

IF THE BAT IS EVER GOING TO TURN THE CLOWN IN, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE HERE...
YEAH.
REWARD
WHAT...?
STEP ASIDE, PLEASE...
SOMEBODY CAUGHT THE JOKER!
WHO'S THIS GUY?
LUCKY STIFF...
OKAY, PAL...
WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.
YOU DON'T GET IT, SHORTY...

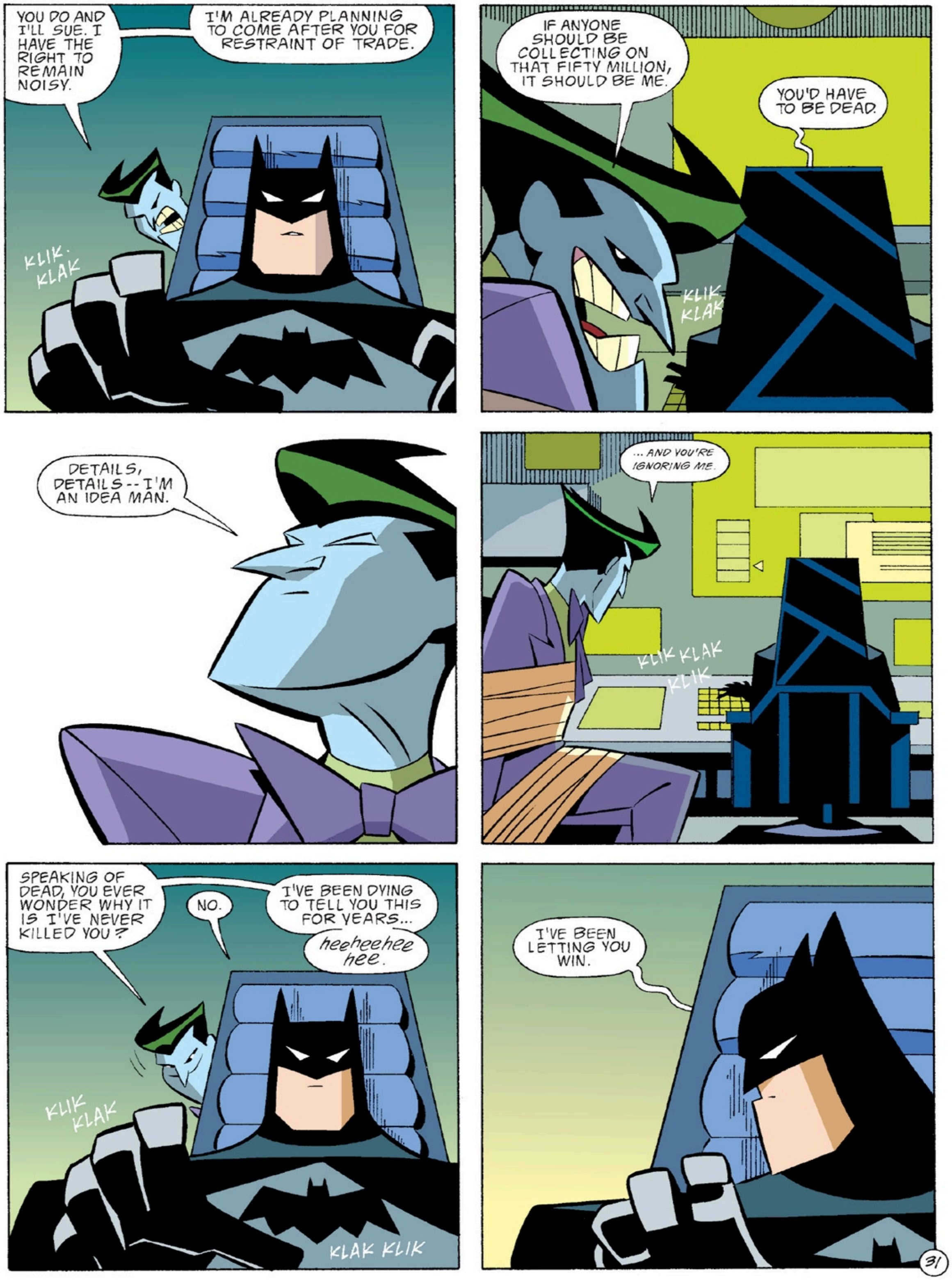

IT WASN'T A CHOICE.
YOU KNOW, FIFTY MIL SPLITS UP BETTER IF WE SPLIT YOU UP FIRST.
SPLOOSH!
Yeesh... WHAT'S THAT?
Guhhh...
YOU RUINED MY PLANS!
ah, NO.

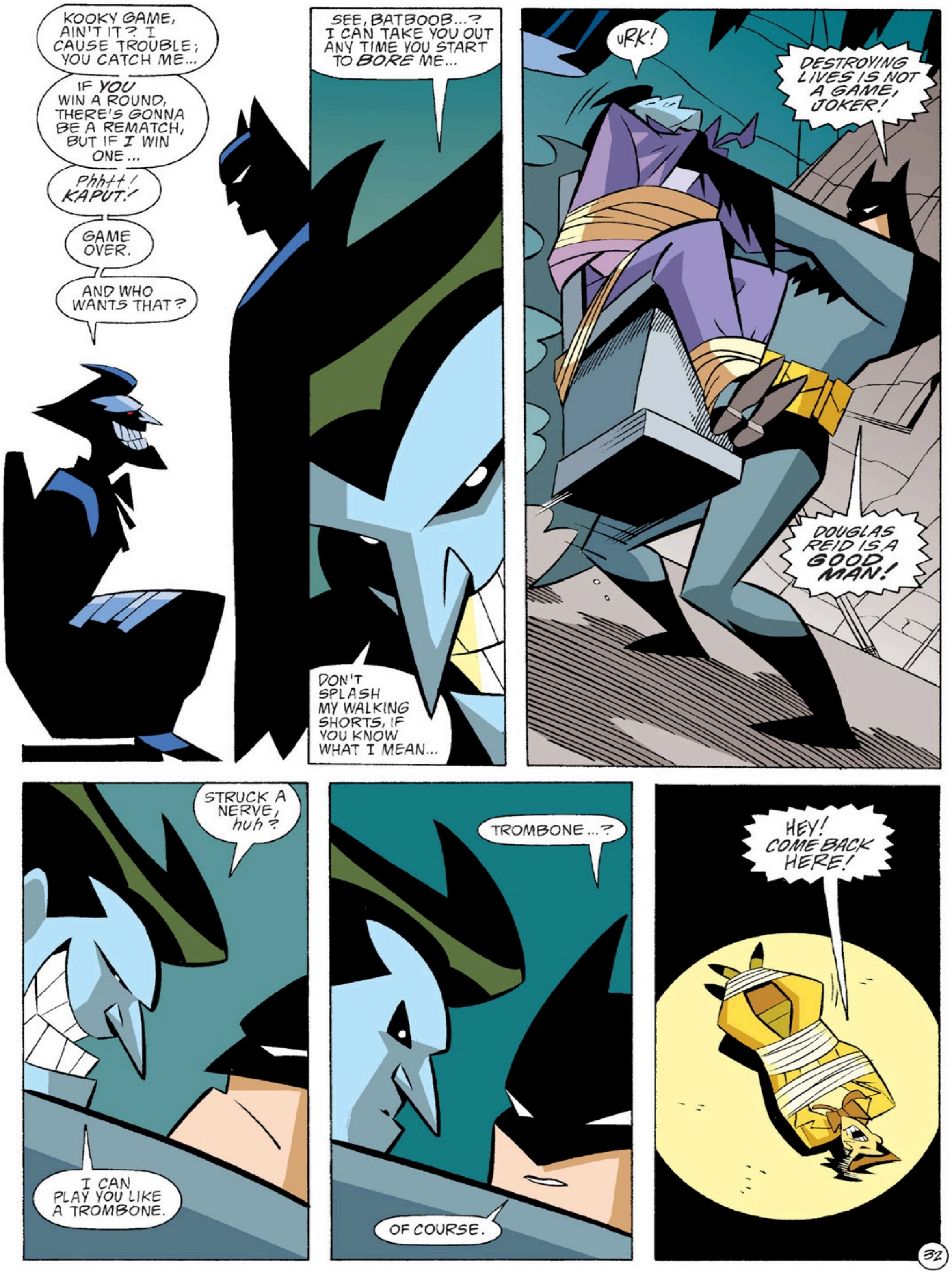

I NEED THAT MONEY TO REBUILD MY LAB!
SLAM
TO PUT MY LIFE BACK! I'M RUNNING OUTTA TIME!
NO ONE'S GETTING IN MY WAY!
CRUNCH
GLORP!
FOR SURE, NOT YOU, JERK!
SAY YOUR PRAYERS...
huh?
SPLACHK!

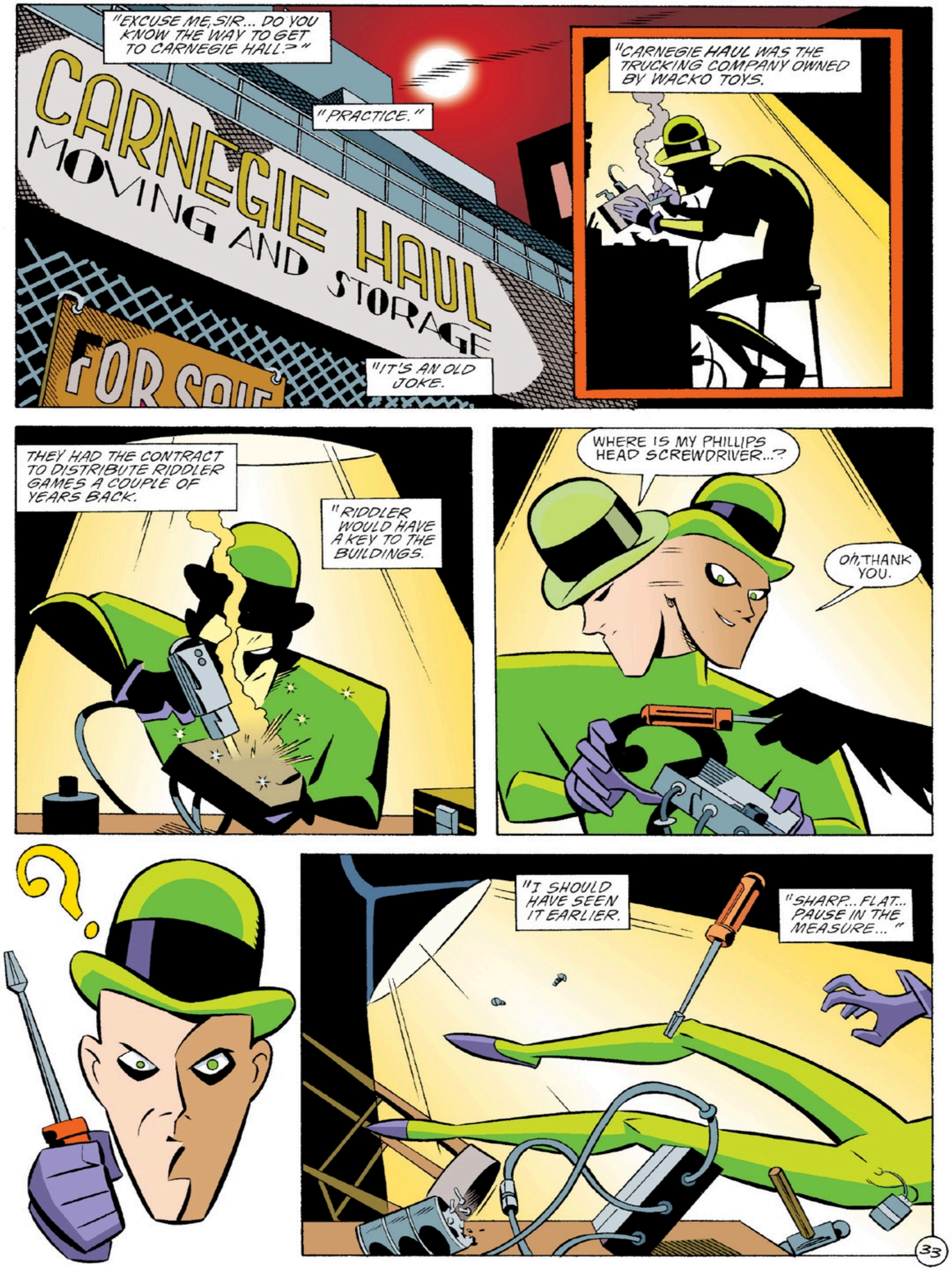

BELIEVE ME, CLAYFACE, I'D RATHER NOT DO THIS.
YOU'RE WAY ON THE FAR SIDE OF DISGUSTING.
BUT SOME THINGS IN LIFE, YOU JUST HAVE TO GO THROUGH.
GLITK!
HEY!
SURE HOPE THIS WORKS...

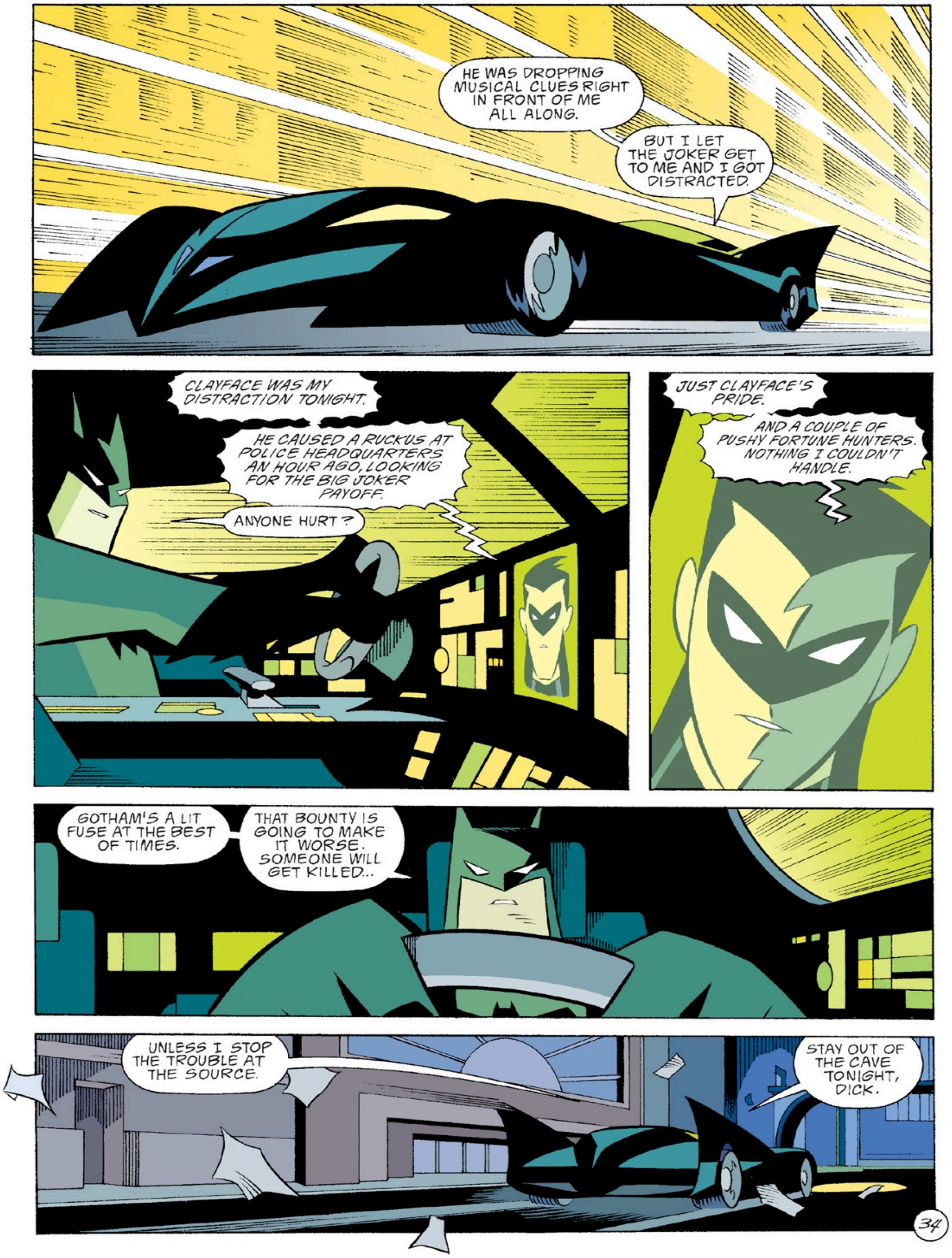

IT'S GOING TO TAKE ME A WEEK TO CLEAN OUT MY HAIR.
GET A LITTLE BIT CLOSER, SEWER LIPS...
YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR THIS, LITTLE MAN.!
PAY...?
HOW ABOUT I CHARGE IT?
KZZZZZAARKT!
FRIED CLAYFACE.
blecchh...
I THINK I DISCOVERED A BRAND-NEW SMELL.

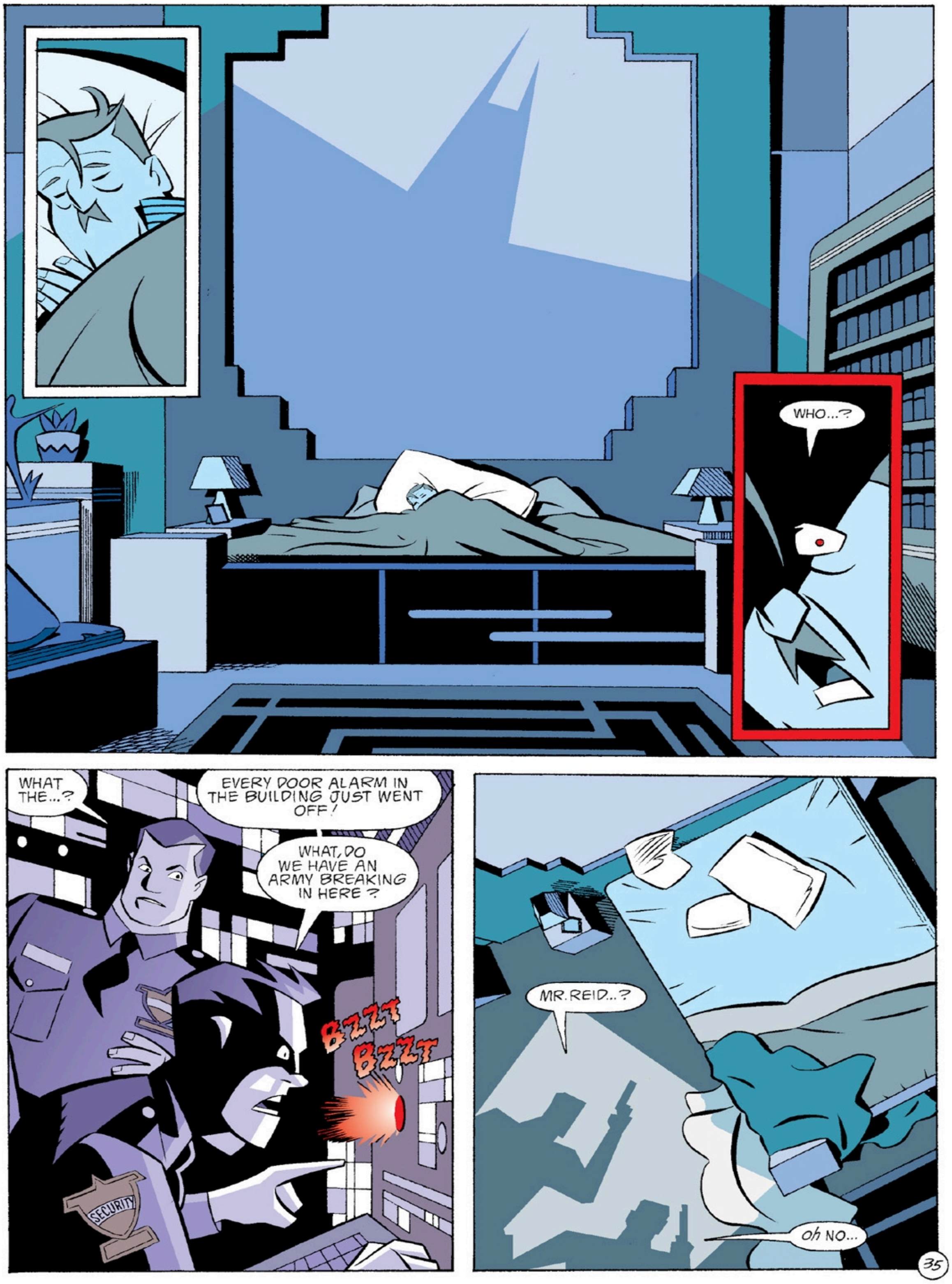

WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE TYPING...?
"THE ONLY WAY YOU COULD GET TO ME IS TO PRACTICE."
WHAT'S THAT...?
TELL ME YOU'RE NOT CROSS-REFERENCING THE WORD PRACTICE AGAINST LOCAL PLACE NAMES...
PUHLEEEZE!
KLIK KLIK
KLIK KLAK
NO TALKING.
ONLY YOU WOULD SOLVE A RIDDLE WITH A COMPUTER, BUTTMAN!
YOU'VE GOT THE SENSE OF HUMOR OF A ROCK.
QUIET.
KLIK KLAK
KLAK KLIK
IT'S ONE OF EDDIE'S LITTLE CLUES, ISN'T IT?
ooh, LET ME HELP!
LUCKY THING I'M ON THE TEAM NOW, FOR STUFF LIKE THIS.
BUT IF I HAVE TO WEAR A FLYING ANIMAL COSTUME, I WANT TO BE THE SQUIRREL.
DON'T MAKE ME GAG YOU.

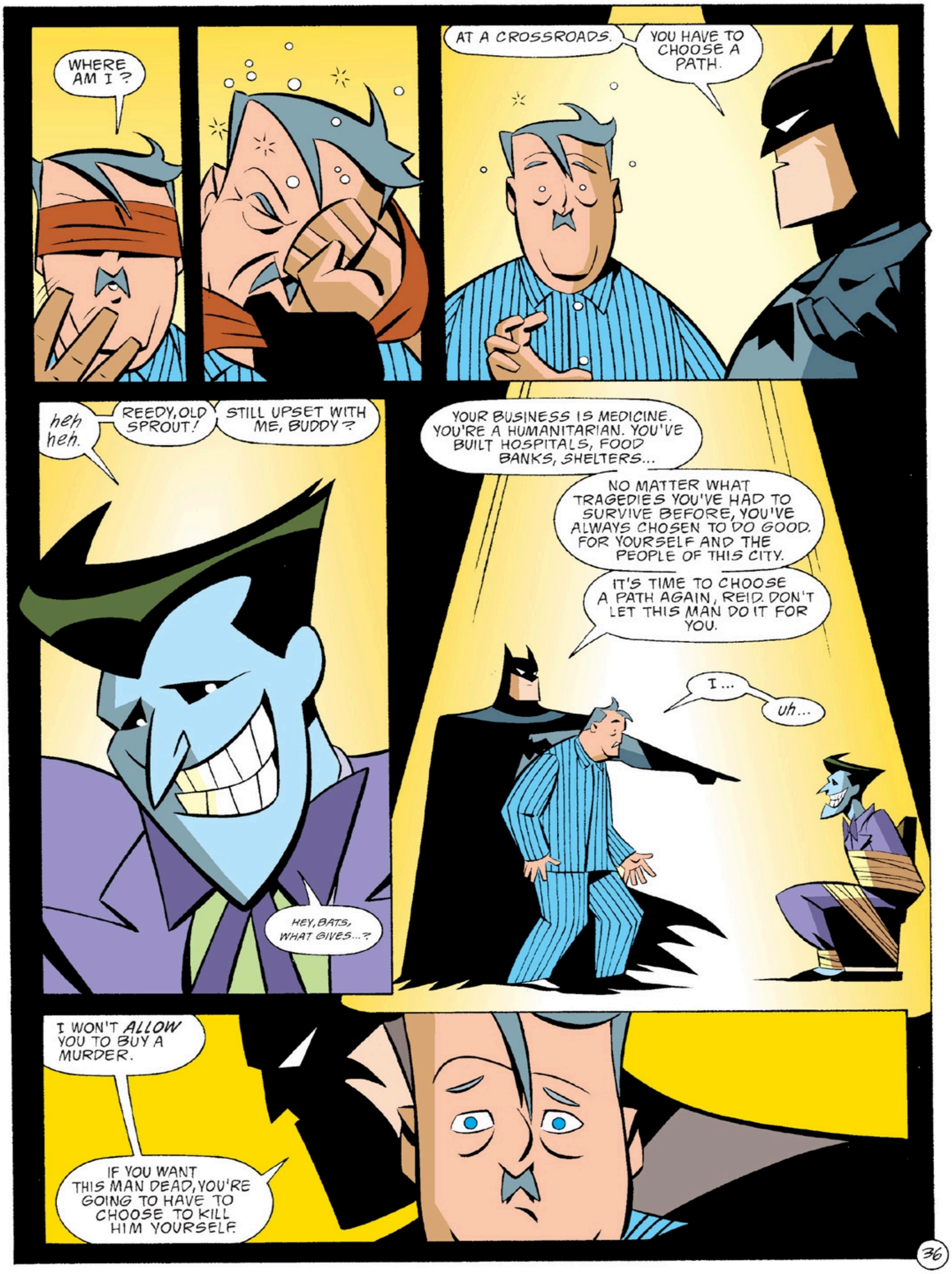

YOU DO AND I'LL SUE. I HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN NOISY.
I'M ALREADY PLANNING TO COME AFTER YOU FOR RESTRAINT OF TRADE.
KLIK. KLAK
IF ANYONE SHOULD BE COLLECTING ON THAT FIFTY MILLION, IT SHOULD BE ME.
YOU'D HAVE TO BE DEAD.
KLIK KLAK
DETAILS, DETAILS -- I'M AN IDEA MAN.
... AND YOU'RE IGNORING ME.
KLIK KLAK KLIK
SPEAKING OF DEAD, YOU EVER WONDER WHY IT IS I'VE NEVER KILLED YOU?
NO.
I'VE BEEN DYING TO TELL YOU THIS FOR YEARS...
heeheehee hee.
KLIK KLAK
KLAK KLIK
I'VE BEEN LETTING YOU WIN.

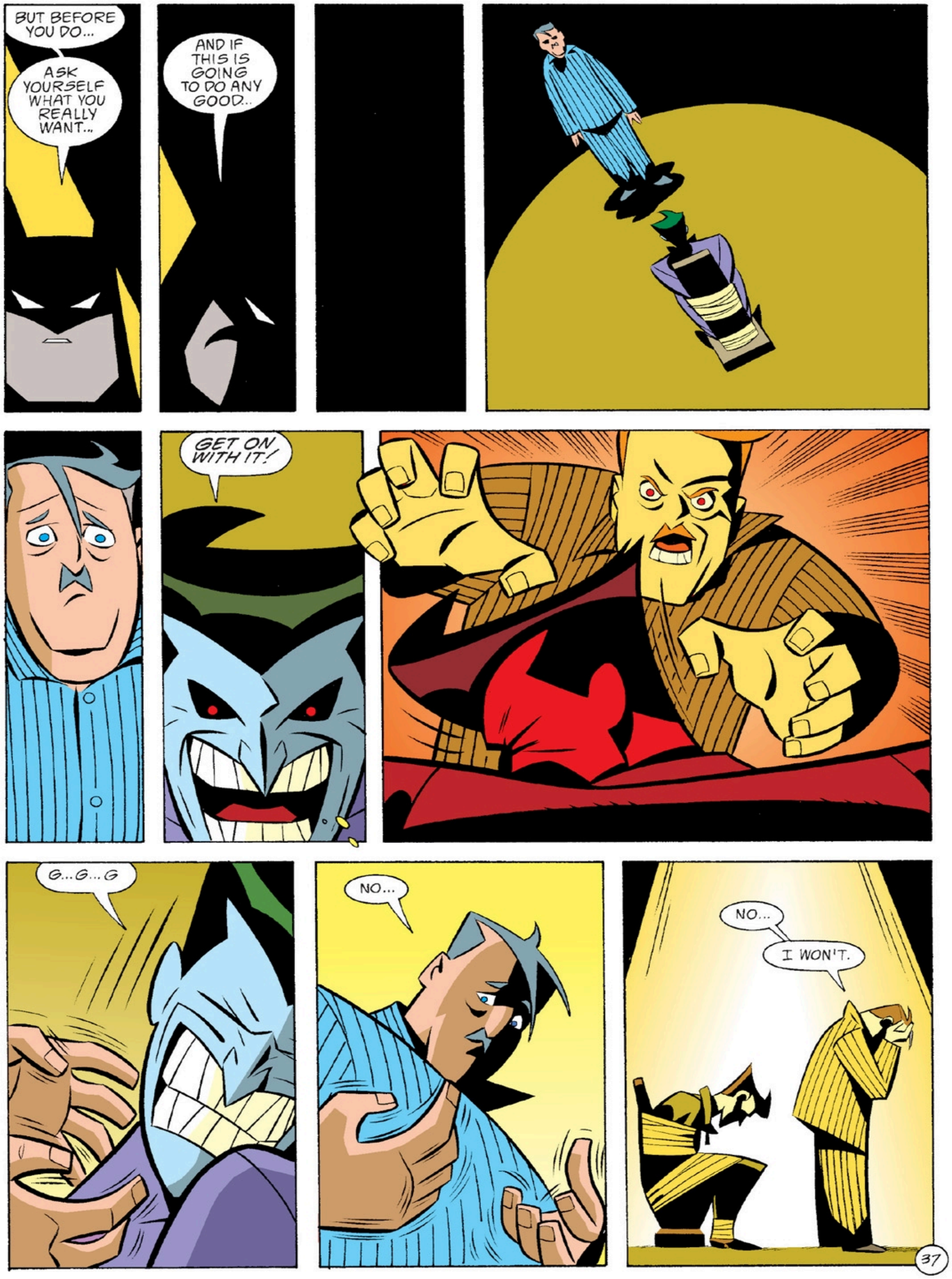

KOOKY GAME, AIN'T IT? I CAUSE TROUBLE; YOU CATCH ME...
IF *YOU* WIN A ROUND, THERE'S GONNA BE A REMATCH, BUT IF *I* WIN ONE...
Phhtt! KAPUT!
GAME OVER.
AND WHO WANTS THAT?
SEE, BATBOOB...? I CAN TAKE YOU OUT ANY TIME YOU START TO *BORE* ME...
DON'T SPLASH MY WALKING SHORTS, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN...
URK!
DESTROYING LIVES IS NOT A GAME, JOKER!
DOUGLAS REID IS A **GOOD MAN!**
STRUCK A NERVE, *huh?*
I CAN PLAY YOU LIKE A TROMBONE.
TROMBONE...?
OF COURSE.
HEY! COME BACK HERE!

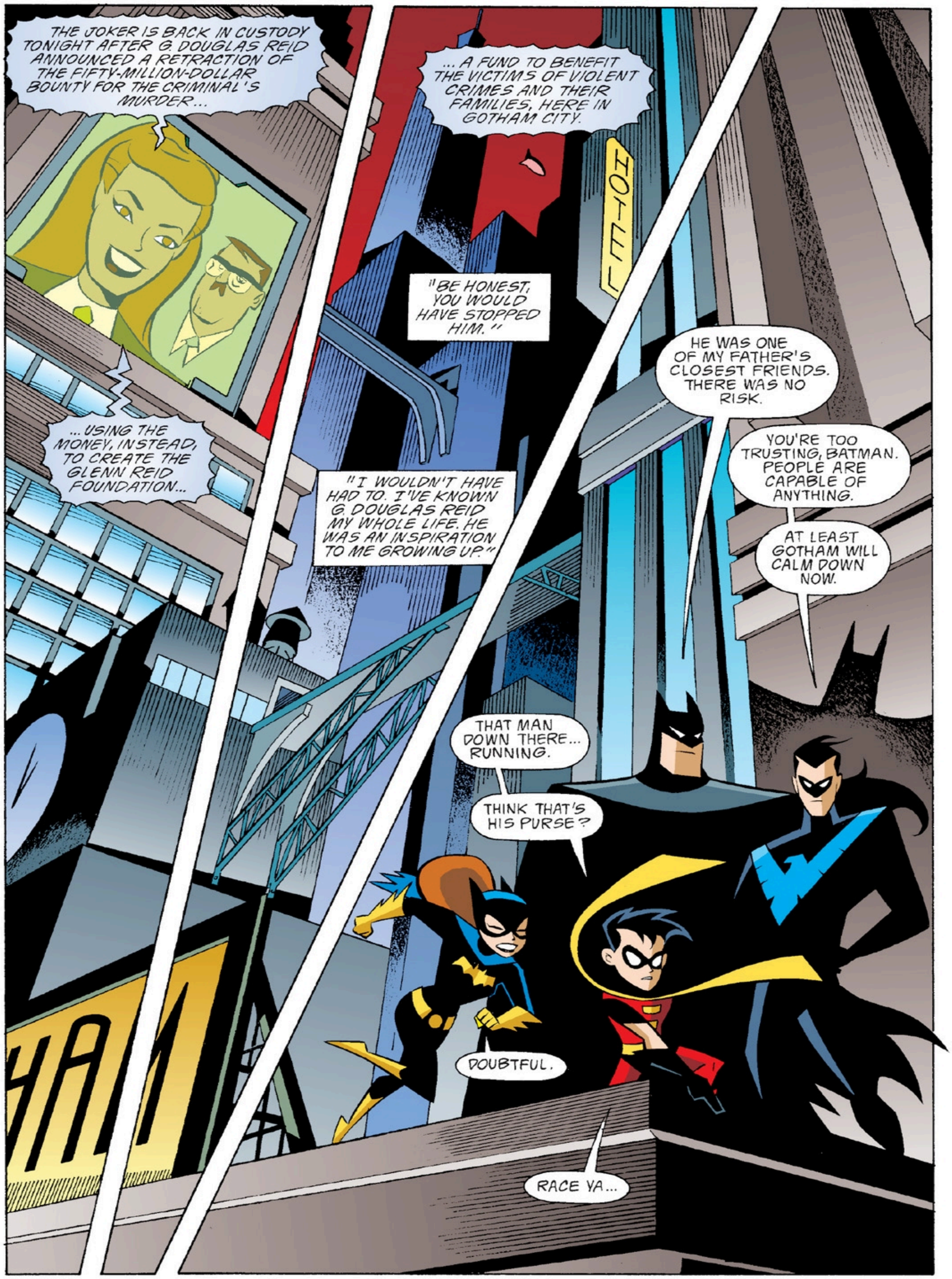

"EXCUSE ME, SIR... DO YOU KNOW THE WAY TO GET TO CARNEGIE HALL?"
CARNEGIE HAUL MOVING AND STORAGE
"PRACTICE."
FOR SALE
"IT'S AN OLD JOKE.
"CARNEGIE HAUL WAS THE TRUCKING COMPANY OWNED BY WACKO TOYS.
THEY HAD THE CONTRACT TO DISTRIBUTE RIDDLER GAMES A COUPLE OF YEARS BACK.
"RIDDLER WOULD HAVE A KEY TO THE BUILDINGS.
WHERE IS MY PHILLIPS HEAD SCREWDRIVER..?
Oh, THANK YOU.
"I SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT EARLIER.
"SHARP... FLAT... PAUSE IN THE MEASURE..."


HE WAS DROPPING MUSICAL CLUES RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME ALL ALONG.
BUT I LET THE JOKER GET TO ME AND I GOT DISTRACTED.
CLAYFACE WAS MY DISTRACTION TONIGHT.
HE CAUSED A RUCKUS AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS AN HOUR AGO, LOOKING FOR THE BIG JOKER PAYOFF.
ANYONE HURT?
JUST CLAYFACE'S PRIDE.
AND A COUPLE OF PUSHY FORTUNE HUNTERS. NOTHING I COULDN'T HANDLE.
GOTHAM'S A LIT FUSE AT THE BEST OF TIMES.
THAT BOUNTY IS GOING TO MAKE IT WORSE. SOMEONE WILL GET KILLED...
UNLESS I STOP THE TROUBLE AT THE SOURCE.
STAY OUT OF THE CAVE TONIGHT, DICK.


WHO...?
WHAT THE...?
EVERY DOOR ALARM IN THE BUILDING JUST WENT OFF!
WHAT, DO WE HAVE AN ARMY BREAKING IN HERE?
SECURITY
BZZT
BZZT
MR. REID...?
oh NO...


WHERE AM I?
AT A CROSSROADS.
YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE A PATH.
heh heh.
REEDY, OLD SPROUT!
STILL UPSET WITH ME, BUDDY?
HEY, BATS, WHAT GIVES...?
YOUR BUSINESS IS MEDICINE. YOU'RE A HUMANITARIAN. YOU'VE BUILT HOSPITALS, FOOD BANKS, SHELTERS...
NO MATTER WHAT TRAGEDIES YOU'VE HAD TO SURVIVE BEFORE, YOU'VE ALWAYS CHOSEN TO DO GOOD. FOR YOURSELF AND THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY.
IT'S TIME TO CHOOSE A PATH AGAIN, REID. DON'T LET THIS MAN DO IT FOR YOU.
I...
uh...
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO BUY A MURDER.
IF YOU WANT THIS MAN DEAD, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO CHOOSE TO KILL HIM YOURSELF.


BUT BEFORE YOU DO...
ASK YOURSELF WHAT YOU REALLY WANT...
AND IF THIS IS GOING TO DO ANY GOOD..
GET ON WITH IT!
G...G...G
NO...
NO...
I WON'T.


THE JOKER IS BACK IN CUSTODY TONIGHT AFTER G. DOUGLAS REID ANNOUNCED A RETRACTION OF THE FIFTY-MILLION-DOLLAR BOUNTY FOR THE CRIMINAL'S MURDER...
...USING THE MONEY, INSTEAD, TO CREATE THE GLENN REID FOUNDATION...
... A FUND TO BENEFIT THE VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIMES AND THEIR FAMILIES, HERE IN GOTHAM CITY.
HOTEL
"BE HONEST, YOU WOULD HAVE STOPPED HIM."
"I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO. I'VE KNOWN G. DOUGLAS REID MY WHOLE LIFE. HE WAS AN INSPIRATION TO ME GROWING UP."
HE WAS ONE OF MY FATHER'S CLOSEST FRIENDS. THERE WAS NO RISK.
YOU'RE TOO TRUSTING, BATMAN. PEOPLE ARE CAPABLE OF ANYTHING.
AT LEAST GOTHAM WILL CALM DOWN NOW.
THAT MAN DOWN THERE... RUNNING.
THINK THAT'S HIS PURSE?
DOUBTFUL.
RACE YA...